# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-181
Wednesday
20 September 1989

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FBIS-LAT-89-181 20 September 1989

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## 12 Heads of State Confirm Attendance at Summit

*PA1909170289 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 8 Sep 89 p 4-A*

[Report by Rocio Marin]

[Text] Twelve American heads of state have confirmed that they will attend the Iberian American presidential summit to be held in San Jose on 27 and 28 October.

According to Ruben Dobles, general coordinator of the activity, the following presidents are expected to attend the summit, which will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Costa Rican democracy: George Bush of the United States; Jose Sarney of Brazil; Jose Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay; and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela.

Other presidents attending will be Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua; Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala; Jose Azcona of Honduras; Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia; Andres Rodriguez of Paraguay; and Carlos Menem of Argentina.

Also attending will be Prime Ministers Michael Manley of Jamaica and Brian Mulroney of Canada. Mulroney will be the first to arrive, at 0100 on 25 October.

As the date approaches, plans are for the first 20 heads of state to arrive to be lodged at the Sheraton Herradura and Cariari Hotels. If other presidents come to the summit, Robles said, they will be assigned to the Irazu and Corobici Hotels. Delegation members will use other hotels in San Jose.

For the protection of the presidents and their delegations, security areas have already been designated. These include the Juan Santamaria and Tobias Bolanos Airports, the General Canas airstrip, the area around the hotels, Paseo Colon Boulevard, and Second Avenue up to the National Museum.

The major problem the organizing commission faces is the lack of hotel space to meet the needs of foreign newsmen since more than 1,500 reporters will be in attendance. To solve this problem, a campaign will be launched on 15 September to get Costa Rican families to lodge the international press in their homes.

## Cuba

### Castro Attends Mexican Independence Reception

*FL1909202389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Text] Last night, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], participated in the reception hosted by the Mexican ambassador marking the 179th anniversary of Mexico's independence.

Upon his arrival at the Mexican Embassy, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers was received by Mexican Ambassador Raul Castellano Jimenez and other embassy personnel with whom Fidel spoke. During the fraternal event, the participants discussed the extensive historical and solidary ties that characterize Cuban-Mexican relations.

The reception was also attended by other leaders of the PCC, the state, and the Government of Cuba, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of cultural organizations and institutions accredited in Cuba, and national and foreign press representatives.

### Malmierca Arrives in NY To Attend UN Meeting

*FL1909231989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2312 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Report by Daniel Torres on "Exclusivo" Program]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has arrived at the United Nations to participate in the 44th UN General Assembly session, which began today.

The Cuban foreign minister held meetings today and made contact with other delegations and chiefs of regional groups. Shortly after his arrival, Malmierca met with the outgoing president of the General Assembly, the Argentine politician, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo.

Malmierca will address the UN plenum on 27 September. On the 28th, the Cuban foreign minister will participate in a meeting of the Group of 77 and on 3 October, he will take part in a meeting with nonaligned country representatives.

Up to now, Cuba appears to be the only Latin American candidate to comprise the Group of 10, the group of nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council, for a 1 year period.

### CEMA State Labor Organizations Meeting Begins

*FL1909234089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Report by Daniel Torres on "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The first meeting of leaders of state labor organizations of CEMA member countries began today. The meeting is presided over by Pedro Ross Leal, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and chairman of the commission organizing the 16th congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions.

Francisco Linares, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, welcomed the delegates from 10 different countries. He stressed the long and productive bilateral cooperation of CEMA countries over the past 10 years. He said that the meeting is the start of a new multilateral vehicle that appropriately takes into consideration the changes that are occurring in labor matters and in social labor in general.

### Maritime Development Discussed

*FL1909191689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] The third session of the 54th CEMA meeting which is dealing with the operation and development of maritime transportation began today in Havana. Vice ministers from the Soviet Union, GDR, and Poland, as well as directors of maritime transportation sectors from other socialist countries attended the meeting.

This meeting will review the work carried out in that field during 1988 and will discuss the main multilateral cooperation tasks to be carried out during the 5-year period of 1991 through 1995. The meeting will also analyze Cuba's maritime sector, among other subjects.

The meeting, which will continue until next Friday [22 September], was opened by Hugo Vivar Castillo, secretary general of the Cuban Merchant Marine and Port Workers Union.

### Aguirre Terms IPU Conference 'Very Positive'

*FL1909182589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo has characterized as very positive the 83d conference of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU], which just ended in the UK capital. Aguirre headed the Cuban delegation to the conference. The acting president of our National Assembly described the conference in this way, taking into account the agreements reached on the peaceful use of space and the sending of observers to the Namibian elections.

[Begin Aguirre recording] We consider this agreement an extremely important one because the IPU is taking a stand on very important issues such as the struggle of the people against colonialism, the elimination of colonialism in Africa, beginning in Namibia, in line with UN agreements. [end recording]

He also considered important the decisions reached by the parliamentarians meeting in London on the problem of hunger, which is related with the foreign debt and its consequences. Severo Aguirre also said that the voice of

Cuba was heard at the IPU conference to denounce the U.S. plans to establish an enemy television broadcast against our country.

## Internationalists Arrive From Angola, Ethiopia

### PCC Official Awards Medals

*FL1909143089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Some 200 internationalist combatants arrived in the fatherland from the People's Republic of Angola yesterday. They were happy for having fulfilled their duty. Division General Sixto Batista Santana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and chief of its Military Department; and Asela de los Santos, member of the PCC Central Committee; among others, went to receive them at the airport.

Of the veteran combatants, one received the Ernesto Che Guevara Order, another the Ignacio Agramonte Medal, all received the Internationalist Combatant Medal and the Cuba-Angola Victory Medal, and a large group received the Revolutionary Armed Forces Distinguished Service Award.

### Hart Greets Combatants

*FL1909165589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Text] Part of the internationalists who were honored at Cacahual last night flew into the country last night after fulfilling a mission in the Republic of Ethiopia. Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo; and Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and hero of the Republic of Cuba; welcomed them at the airport together with other leaders of the PCC, the FAR, and the Interior Ministry.

This group of Cuban internationalists, the last one to arrive, was headed by Brigade General Manuel Perez Hernandez, chief of the Cuban military mission in Ethiopia. Perez Hernandez assessed the mission fulfilled by our troops.

[Begin recording] [Perez Hernandez] This mission is going to be 12 years old soon. We could say it was characterized by two stages; the stage that prompted the beginning of the war, and later, the longest stage which has been being in complete readiness for war, ready to defend the Ethiopian revolution against any other foreign attack. As I said, this stage that just ended is the longest stage. It ended as a result of the mutual decision reached by the two presidents—our commander in chief and President Mengistu. I believe that to speak of the significance, we would have to speak of an enormous political and military significance for our people and for the Ethiopians.

[Reporter] Now that the Cuban mission has been completed in Ethiopia, we would like to know your impressions about this stage of successful mission in this brother country.

[Perez Hernandez] Well, I could say that my overall impression is great. First, because we are back in the fatherland. Second, because we were able to fulfill it—with the guidance of the minister and the commander in chief—in the period of time that was established. Also, and this is very important, we left good friends in the brother country. We established great relations with the people and their Armed Forces. As you ask me, our impression is that our entire troop is full of enthusiasm and discipline. We are ready to carry out any other type of task in our fatherland, be it in the defense, the economy, or any other sphere. [end recording]

## Salvadoran Peace Prospects Viewed Favorably

*PA2009034389 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 89*

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] For the first time in virtually 10 years of armed conflict, which has claimed almost 70,000 lives, the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas signed an agreement recently in Mexico City. This could mark the beginning of an unprecedented path of peace for that Central American country.

After 2 days of talks, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] representatives and Salvadoran Government delegates agreed to establish a permanent dialogue to secure a definite cease-fire. On 16 and 17 October, the Costa Rican capital will host the meeting between the negotiating parties. The event will be attended by two representatives of the Catholic Church as mediators for the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference. UN and OAS representatives will be invited to attend as witnesses.

Aside from matters of procedure, it is worthwhile to say that, in addition to being decisive in achieving a solution to the Salvadoran internal crisis, the rebels' recent peace initiative was a strong blow to the ruling ultra-rightist sector. The rebels' willingness to end hostilities and turn the FMLN into a political party placed before President Alfredo Cristiani the decision of continuing the war or opting for peace.

As of that moment, and in view of the importance assigned to the talks by the international media and analysts, international public opinion kept abreast of the dialogue, which is so vital for El Salvador and for Central America. For the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], the proposals were clearly defined to agree on a total cease-fire before 31 January, to end the repression, to conduct a purge in the Army, and to reorganize the judicial and electoral system.

Although details were not given on how the issues will be handled, the fact remains that discussions between the two parties will begin in only a month. It means that the veiled government intention to delay the talks and continue the war, which it cannot win in any event, has failed. We might even add that the ARENA government has been on the defensive from the beginning, especially following the Tela summit which appealed to the Salvadoran authorities to hold dialogue as soon as possible with the rebels. President Cristiani's attempt to secure the forceful demobilization of the guerrillas and his attempt to compare these forces with the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries also failed.

The seriousness of the Salvadoran Government's position and its willingness to secure a definitive peace agreement will be in evidence at the next meetings. Meanwhile, the prospects for achieving peace in the country appear to be favorable.

## Caribbean Affairs

### EC To Provide $2 Million in Hurricane Assistance

*FL1909222989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2119 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 19, CANA—The European Community is making over two million U.S. dollars available for immediate assistance to Caribbean states affected by Hurricane Hugo, the community's office here reported Tuesday.

The EEC has allocated over one million U.S. dollars for emergency assistance to Guadeloupe.

Regarding the English-speaking Eastern Caribbean islands, the office said: "Approximately 250,000 U.S. dollars will be used to send blankets, rolls of plastic sheeting, water containers, and water purification tablets by air to the most affected countries.

"The action will be coordinated by the British Red Cross, who will send a team on the plane which will be transporting the emergency supplies, leaving the United Kingdom today.

"On arrival in Antigua, the Red Cross team will link up with the EEC resident adviser, Mr John Simpson, and supplies will be sent on to Montserrat and St Kitts-Nevis."

Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts, Montserrat, and Puerto Rico reported heavy damage from Hurricane Hugo this week.

The EEC office said further actions will be decided when more accurate information is available on the needs for immediate assistance.

## Dominica

### Prime Minister Cancels Tour Due to Injury

*FL1909224989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2123 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Sept 19, CANA—Prime Minister of Dominica, Mary Eugenia Charles, nursing a fractured leg in a Taiwan hospital, has urged local banana farmers to use the devastation caused by Hurricane Hugo to diversify.

"I hope some of them (farmers) will not go back into bananas, there are areas in which they should ask for advice to start something else besides bananas," Charles said in an interview on state-owned DBS Radio. She added that it was time for diversification to take root. "But one can only tell the farmers. One can't compel them to do what you want them to do."

Bananas are Dominica's chief foreign exchange earner.

As a result of her injury, Charles has cancelled her remaining engagements on her official visit to Taiwan, plus trips to Japan and the United Nations. The accident occurred on Monday when Charles, 70, slipped and fell when getting out of her hotel bed.

The prime minister is expected to leave Taiwan on Saturday and return home on Sunday or Monday.

"She is comfortable and in very good spirits," said George John, manager of the state-owned DBS Radio, who spoke to Charles by telephone.

Charles said that she was sorry she was not at home when the hurricane passed by, but congratulated the nation for handling the disaster well.

## Haiti

### Gen Avril Delivers First Anniversary Message

*FL1909151089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1300 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer speaking in Creole] The 1st anniversary of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril's government was marked yesterday Sunday 17 September 1989. The chief of state delivered a message to the Haitian people on the occasion. Here is an excerpt of that message.

[Avril] "We took the helm of the ship of state under the banner of dialogue. Thus, in the very first weeks of our government, the doors of the National Palace were successfully opened to the various political leaders, union leaders, employers' representatives, directors of opinion, and directors of conscience. They came from all over to support the government's first initiatives, to give

the government advice and suggestions on how to manage the new political juncture, or to discuss the transition process.

"Another great moment for this dialogue was the installation of the forum, which gave rise to the electoral council. [passage omitted]

The opening of dialogue is going to bear fruit throughout the changing Haitian political arena. Indeed, a single united current is increasingly emerging within the political class. The month of September has seen the emergence of promising coalitions or alliances."

[Announcer in Creole] In his speech to mark the 1st anniversary of his government, Gen Avril talked about the projects his government has realized and future projects to be completed.

[Avril] "Many measures have had to be taken by the government in order to rehabilitate the government's finances during the economic crisis. We have shown our concern in protecting the most disadvantaged among our people by tax exempting certain products, such as materials for use in schools, pharmaceutical products, agricultural inputs, petroleum products, etc. The marketplace taxes have also been abolished. Further, in an attempt to seek greater well-being for the peasants of our communal sections, on 14 July 1989 the government issued a decree on the distribution of government lands to the poorest of the peasants.

"By putting our own current small resources to work, we have been able to improve the nation's infrastructure by undertaking the construction of an international airport in Cap-Haitien and rebuilding the Croix des Bouquets-Malpasse road. Construction work on the Pendu Bridge in northwestern Haiti and on the portion of road between Trou du Nord and Ouanaminthe in northeastern Haiti is to begin soon. Although the current difficulties put limits on what we can do, we will find in our patriotism the strength to surpass these limits. We will find the means to undertake even more projects."

## Organization's Headquarters Ransacked by Armed Men

*FL1909134589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Report by Petit Goave correspondent Max A. Metellus]

[Text] On 16 September 1989, 20 men armed with pointed objects, sticks, machetes, and revolvers twice ransacked the headquarters of Konbit Comme Il Faut [appropriate cooperative action] in Grand Goave. They set fire to some things and carted other things off to the barracks in Grand Goave. This same group was pursuing all persons said to be members of Konbit Comme Il Faut in Grand Goave. Six Comme Il Faut members were hurt in the incidents.

On the night of Saturday, 16 September, numerous rounds were fired and rocks were thrown at the houses of those said to be members of Comme Il Faut in Grand Goave.

The current serious situation in Grand Goave occurred after a soccer match on Friday 15 September between (Alaca), which has a few Konbit Comme Il Faut members on the team, and (Extra Caisse), which calls itself a diaspora. The match was ended when disruptions occurred. A member of the (Extra Caisse) soccer team told us that they are going to destroy Konbit Comme Il Faut in Grand Goave by force because it is Konbit Comme Il Faut and other similar groups in Haiti that are causing the nation problems.

## Democratic Unity Denounces Actions

*FL1909142289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Excerpts] The Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID] says it has received information about the attack against Konbit Comme Il Faut [appropriate cooperative action]. KID also takes a position on the arrest of Max Bourjolly this past weekend. Bourjolly was taken before a judge Saturday and then returned to jail for the entire weekend. [passage omitted]

KID says, in this news release, that it has received diverse reports on the repressive action of certain groups which are planning attacks against KID headquarters.

KID reports that the Comme Il Faut headquarters were ransacked last Saturday.

KID says the threat against it is greater following the arrest of Max Bourjolly of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists and, especially, following the terrorist action taken by the red-armband-wearing men and the military in Grand Goave to ransack the headquarters and manhandle several members of the Comme Il Faut.

KID feels that repression is expanding following the arrests of Charles Roumain and Herve Durand, two members of the Federation of Neighborhood Committees and Associations.

KID demands the immediate and unconditional release of all the people arrested unjustly. It thinks it is time for the Haitian people to mobilize and engage in noisemaking, honking horns, and paralyzing all activities on Monday 18 September at noon to protest the repression, insecurity, and high cost of living that Avril and the IMF have established in order to dismantle the nation. [passage omitted]

## PUCH's Theodore Discusses Bourjolly Arrest

*FL2009125989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Interview with PUCH Secretary General Rene Theodore by correspondent Frankel Valentin; date and place not given]

[Text] Max Bourjolly, the No 2 man of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH], spent his 3d day incarcerated in the National Penitentiary.

[Begin Theodore recording] According to the lawyers, Max Bourjolly went before an examining magistrate Saturday. The lawyer, Mr Nord, submitted to the examing magistrate the request for habeas corpus, a provisional release for Max Bourjolly.

They had assured us that he would appear in court today for a hearing, after which he would be released. Today Mr Nord went to court. The examining magistrate told him that he had been informed by the military at the National Penitentiary that they are on vacation today because of yesterday's celebration. They couldn't take any prisoners to court. They made a hearing appointment for tomorrow. The lawyers handling the matter, particularly Mr (Jean Claude) Nord and Mr (Duthie McKenzie), can assist Max Bourjolly in court to expedite justice.

What we find extremely bizarre is that they told us that the Army is on vacation. The Army is never on vacation! Individual members of the Armed Forces might be on vacation but the Army, itself, is never on vacation!

If the administration is effective and they must take a prisoner before a court—a prisoner who in principle should not spend more than 48 hours in prison before being taken before a court—then, they should be able to guarantee unconditionally that there are members of the Armed Forces or policemen available to accompany the prisoner to court. This is not the case.

Also, today.... [changes thought] As you know, the PUCH headquarters is located near the big prison. We were very concerned because we saw smoke coming from the prison. A fire broke out inside the prison. We hastened to telephone the prison and the police. They reassured us they had the fire under control. They said there had been a fire. We hope they will provide detailed information on the fire to calm down the people with friends and relatives in that prison. [end recording]

That was an interview granted to our colleague Frankel Valentin by Rene Theodore, No 1 man of the PUCH, who was talking about the arrest of Max Bourjolly. Today is his 4th day under arrest.

## People Protest IMF Measures by Making Noise

*FL2009123589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Excerpts] Some 30 organizations asked people to honk their horns and engage in noisemaking at noon sharp yesterday to show the government that they are not in favor of the latest measures taken by the government in agreement with recommendations made by the IMF to increase the cost of living in Haiti in. One of our co-workers went into the streets to see how things were.

As announced by the new political organization called 17 September People's Organization at its recent news conference, noisemaking began at noon sharp today on diverse streets in the capital and lasted until 1215. People on foot beat on iron poles, beat two pieces of iron together, banged pots and pans, and so forth to show the government they are not in favor of the new measures taken to comply completely with the IMF memorandum. [passage omitted]

We inform listeners that the loudest noise was heard on the Grand Rue.

## Transport Workers Denounce Policy

*FL2009131089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Excerpts] During a news conference held at Federation of Workers Trade Unions [FOS] headquarters yesterday morning, the members of the Central Organization of Haitian Transport Workers Unions [CSTH] stated their position on the extremely bad conditions of the nation's roads. [passage omitted]

The CSTH also set forth its position on the IMF's policies. The CSTH announced a project to create a school for union training as well as for traditional academic studies. [passage omitted] CSTH President Joseph Kesner Pierre suggested that the CSTH could, through a signed contract, shoulder its responsibilities and repair the roads if the Department of Public Works does not. If this were to be the case, CSTH members were to be exempted from taxes such as insurance, inspection, etc. [passage omitted]

They also denounced certain institutions that contribute to ruining the roads in the capital, such as CAMEP [the central metropolitan waterworks], which digs up roads to lay water lines and then fails to repair the roads. [passage omitted]

They called on the mayor of Port-au-Prince to launch a campaign to clean up Port-au-Prince, which she could call the campaign for cleanliness, just as the Ministry of Social Affairs has launched a campaign against poverty. [passage omitted]

They also denounced the IMF's policy on Haiti.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] We think it is our leaders' duty to make a decision and

take on this work so we know where we stand. We are not able to pay such a debt. [passage omitted] We are too poor. We cannot pay all that money.

We propose that the government implement tax on luxuries instead. For example, a portion of the industrial sector and a number of merchants do not pay customs duties. The government should look into all these franchises to really come to (?control matters so as to see) how they can pay these debts. [end recording]

## Bel-Air MOP Denies Alliance With PAIN

*FL2009120889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Excerpts] The members and leaders of the party called Movement for the Organization of the Country, MOP, met over the weekend to decide the party's future. [passage omitted]

The alliance between the MOP, headed by agronomist Gerard Philippe Auguste, and the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] and the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN] was widely discussed.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Louis Seize France met with the staff of the Bel-Air MOP [as opposed to Gerard Philippe Auguste's MOP]. [passage omitted]

[France] [MOP founder] In an interview, the leaders of the Bel Air MOP said that Daniel Fignole's MOP is not allying with anyone nor is it a member of any bloc. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Daniel Fignole's MOP is a party seeking a better life for everyone. MOP is a party struggling so everyone at the grassroots level can have the opportunity to occupy a position in the society, said Marc Guillaume.

[Begin Guillaume recording] If we form an alliance, it will be for a cause that concerns everyone. As Article 25 of our party statutes stipulates, we would be obliged to join other political groups if the Fatherland were involved in order to combat a common enemy. It would have to be with political parties who share our ideology. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In a National Haitian Radio interview, PAIN leader Louis Dejoie II said this was not the first time the PAIN had formed an alliance with the MOP. However, Marc Guillaume said that in 1957, Daniel Figonle had reached an agreement with Louis Dejoie I to find a denouement to a crisis that was ravaging the society. At the time, everyone was protesting the Magloire government. However, both parties mutually agreed to sit down and present a common front. (?Both wanted) the government to step down.

[Begin Guillaume] At that time, everyone wanted to see the Magloire government fall. Now, when the professor [Fignole] sends his people out into the streets the merchants, who were pro-Dejoie, never shut their doors. At a meeting Fignole told Dejoie that since they both wanted to see the Magloire government fall they should cooperate in a strike with the merchants as a way for them to overthrow the government.

An agreement was reached (?with a view to) a particular, concrete action. It was never a question of an alliance or a united front between the PAIN and Fignole's MOP. That was never done nor could it ever have been done. [passage omitted]

Guillaume said the Bel-Air MOP is going to hold a 2-day congress 20-21 October at which time a definitive committee to head the Bel-Air MOP will be elected.

## Attorney General on New U.S. Antidrug Plan

*PA1909145189 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 15 Sep 89 p 3*

[Report by Fernando Ramirez de Aguilar L.]

[Text] Mexican Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo stated yesterday that the antidrug program recently unveiled by U.S. President Bush contains many actions that are not really new, but, he noted, they represent new strategies such as the treatment program for drug addicts.

Interviewed following the closing of the national meeting of the Attorney General's Office [PGR] Circuit Delegates, at the PGR's Mexico City auditorium, the official ruled out the possibility that the United States will militarize its southern border, as some U.S. newspapers had reported.

The official said Mexico has carried out and continues to carry out a major task through the operations conducted on its northern border against drug trafficking, "and we expect our neighbors to do likewise."

Alvarez del Castillo said that the countries of the continent are aware that drug trafficking is an international crime with major ramifications.

He added that he understands and respects U.S. sovereignty but that the war on drug trafficking must be carried out from diverse standpoints, and Mexico has its own. "Of course, President Bush's program stresses prevention and rehabilitation as its most important elements," he said in response to a question regarding whether the United States was preventing drug addiction and fighting drug consumption.

Expanding on the U.S. antidrug program, Alvarez del Castillo said: "The fundamental thing is our having the political resolve to do things—as President Salinas de Gortari has instructed us—as well as our hope that the United States, led by President Bush, will also decide to undertake the necessary actions, such as prevention and rehabilitation."

The attorney general denied that former Baja California Governor Xicotencatl Leyva Mortera is under arrest, adding that the PGR has not yet received any complaint against him for alleged mismanagement of public funds.

Earlier, at the closing ceremony, Alvarez del Castillo noted the complexity of each one of the federal agencies as well as their problems in working toward a political and social resolution of problems so that the duties of the federal justice system prevail.

He said the fundamental issues at the meeting were drafting decentralized budget bills to be put into effect in 1990, granting the necessary administrative support for the needed modernization efforts, and implementing the budget for each of the state agencies without interference from the central government. "This is translated into greater efficiency, time saved, improved handling of human resources, and, of course, an active participation in streamlining administrative procedures."

Moreover, Alicia Mora Castellanos, director of administrative efficiency of the Comproller General's Office, said that it was necessary to reform regulations and policies to serve the victims of various crimes.

## Radioactivity at Nuclear Energy Plant Increasing

*PA1909235689 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Sep 89 pp 1, 16*

[Report by Nidia Marin]

[Text] The trial runs of the Laguna Verde nuclear energy plant are causing an increase in the radioactivity in the environment and the ocean, in the area around the nuclear energy plant, and along the coastal border all the way to the port of Veracruz. From 1 April to 24 August of this year, approximately 922,629 liters of radioactive liquids have been dumped into the ocean. The quantity of gases released into the atmosphere have been such that it is already possible to measure "the effect and increase of radioactivity in the regional environment."

The Group of 100, through Ofelia Medina, Homero Aridjis (president of this association of ecologists), and Feliciano Bejar, reported this information based on data provided by peasants, cattlemen, fishermen, and technicians. The group reported that General Electric originally scheduled the trial run to last 158 days (from October 1988 to April 1989), but now it has been reported the trial run will last through the first months of 1990. General Electric scheduled five emergency shutdowns for the entire trial period, which includes six different phases. Up to now, however, there have been 16 shutdowns, and this is still the second phase. "All this amid a tense atmosphere of relations between the general superintendency, the operations superintendency, and the technicians who have to work under inadequate conditions."

Regarding the radioactive liquids dumped into the ocean, the ecologists pointed out: "Veracruz cattlemen and fishermen report that Juan Eibenschutz, deputy director of the Federal Electricity Commission [CFE], admitted the truthfulness of the figures reported. However, he said the CFE has the right to dump these and even greater amounts of radioactive liquids into the sea. [no closing quotation marks as published]

The CFE deputy director added: "The reason for the production of radioactive waste in a volume that exceeds the plant's waste processing capacity is due to fissures in the fuel casings which permit the fission products to leak into the cooling water. Another reason for it is because of the excessive amount of corrosive products activated by the natural decay of materials which make up the internal components of the reactor. And all of this is

worsened by the incompetent and irresponsible way in which the process to recycle the water to cool the reactor is carried out."

Up to the end of August, the personnel of the Monitoring and Environmental Dosimetry Laboratory (LAMDA) had not notified anyone that there had been constant releases of radioactive gases into the atmosphere in such amounts that it is now possible to measure the rise in the level in the Laguna Verde area. So far, the nuclear power plant administration has put the blame on defective calibration of the measuring instruments and the incompetence of physicist Angel Valdovinos, the LAMDA director.

The curious thing is that at all the public activities promoting the nuclear power plant in which the physicist Valdovinos took part, the CFE officers always presented him as an example of someone who was professionally very capable, even to such a degree that the precision of his measurements received international recognition on several occasions. Valdovinos' great sin was having coordinated the measurements that served to confirm the reports by Veracruz cattle ranchers, fishermen, and citizens, which refuted the statements of CFE officers who claimed that the area's radioactivity would never increase due to the plant's operation.

Since the middle of 1988, the ecologists noted, Valdovinos had been urging General Superintendent Engineer Rafael Fernandez de la Garza and Operations Superintendent Engineer Jose Francisco Torres to take the necessary corrective measures in connection with radioactive gas leaks and the intentional spillage into the sea of radioactive water.

The ecologists also said: "The overall effect of an increase in the area's radioactivity results in the presence of radioactive gases and particles that circulate and accumulate in the local atmosphere, with very few possibilities of escaping due to the mountainous area that surrounds Laguna Verde. So far, it has been impossible to contain this because of the difficulties in monitoring the leaks—also reported by physicist Valdovinos—due to the malfuctioning of the turbine and the ventilation system of the radioactive waste buildings. This is made worse by the incompetence and the corruption of the radiological protection personnel. For example, according to Annex 1 to the finding FR-2 during inspection 01-28-29-LV, made by technicians of the national security and safety commission: "Radiological protection personnel were seen at the entrance of the dry well, without protective clothing, with the monitors left on the ground, in an area marked as contaminated..." Recently, "the head of radiological supervision was fined for falsifying reports."

Another effect on the area, attributable to the operation of the nuclear power plant, is poisoning of the sea due to the huge amounts of chlorine dumped into it to prevent the accumulation of marine growth in the condenser's seawater inlet.

The ecologists added: "There are other cases involving personnel. Technical Support Engineer Javier Barrera Quirarte presented to the general and operations superintendents the document 'Diagnosis of the Laguna Verde Situation,' signed by intermediate and high-level technicians (including physicist Valdovinos). This document, drafted a year ago, just before the plant's operational trial runs began, requested that the loading of fuel be delayed until maintenance, renewal, and adjustment work as well as training of personnel had been completed, especially the training of those working in radiological protection and waste handling. The degree to which these technicians were right can be confirmed by 13,986 emergency maintenance requests (not complied with) during 1988, and 5,126 from 1 January to 27 April 1989. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Reactor number two has been "cannibalized" for the parts, components, and even complete systems that have been removed to replace those damaged by simple neglect, premature wearing-down, or operational destruction during the trial start-up runs of reactor number one. According to the technicians critical of Laguna Verde, the cost of replacing all this material was $800 million up to August 1988—23 percent of the plant's total construction cost, the ecologists said.

The ecologists concluded by saying: "Any person of normal intelligence will agree that enough reasons exist for the Executive Branch to order the immediate suspension of the Laguna Verde power plant's contaminating trial start-up runs, and that an investigation must be started to find out who is responsible. The backers of this plant, which is causing the country so much harm, must be punished."

## Government Reports Tax Revenue, Deficit Figures

*PA1809151889 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 15 Sep 89 p 43*

[From the "National Finance Focus" column]

[Text] Federal government tax revenue rose between January and July to 29.7 trillion pesos, 15.5 percent more in real terms than that obtained in the same period of 1988 and 40.4 percent more in nominal terms, Finance Secretariat government sources revealed Thursday. Total revenue during the same period totalled 51.5 trillion pesos, almost 6 trillion more than originally programmed by the Revenue Law, the Secretariat said. Various lines showed an increase in real terms and were above estimates by the Federal Revenue Law for the period.

As for the government deficit, Banco Nacional de Mexico reported Thursday, the reduction was 52.2 percent in real terms for the first semester of the year compared to the same period in 1988. The bank predicted that decline in interest rates could lead to a financial surplus of 4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) for the 12 months elapsed between July 1989 and July 1990 - which would be compatible with the 17 percent annual inflation rate.

## 30 CTM Leaders Expelled During This Year

*PA2009012189 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 31 Aug 89 p 3*

[Article by Antonio Vasquez]

[Text] CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] Secretary General Fidel Velasquez has said that 30 leaders of labor unions and other federations that belong to the CTM were expelled during the first 6 months of the year, and that some of them will be tried for common crimes against those they represented. Velasquez also said that Cecilio Salas Galvez should not continue as the head of the Labor Congress [CT], because none of the unions have agreed to extend his leadership for 2 more months.

The CTM leader said that the purge of "bad leaders" will continue because the measure benefits not only the CTM, but the interests of the entire organized labor union movement. Velasquez said: "We know that there have been cases of corruption in other organizations, and the CTM cannot be the exception." Nevertheless, he explained, "this does not mean that the entire labor movement has been corrupted."

Fidel Velasquez told this reporter that the workers are not to blame for the bankruptcy of the Cananea mining company or for the problems at the Sicartsa [Lazaro Cardenas-Las Truchas Iron and Steel Works]. Velasquez added that "corrupt officials have always blamed their incompetence on the workers, but the government is well aware of the cause of the mining company's bankruptcy."

To summarize what the CTM has done to purge the unions, the leader of over 4 million workers said that the CTM members, more than anyone else, want each leader who does not fulfill his duties, does not consult with the rank and file, or is not aware of the problems that affect the rank and file, "to be expelled."

On this subject, Fidel Velasquez said that during the first 6 months of the year, 30 CTM leaders were removed from their posts in response to workers demands. The most recent removals were those of Nereo Gutierrez, of the Quintana Roo Workers Federation; Reynaldo Garza Cantu, of the Reynosa Federation; and Silvestre Gonzalez Portillo, who is charged with embezzeling funds from the construction labor Union.

Velasquez pointed out that the expulsion of leaders has not prompted members to leave the CTM. "That is false. We are not interested in publicizing the names of those expelled, but in keeping the CTM in good working order," he added.

Velasquez said that up to now, the only problem of workers leaving his organization has occurred in San Luis Potosi.

Talking about the Labor Congress, Fidel Velasquez said that the organization is condemned to inefficiency unless "the usual historic errors" are corrected. As long as some of the leaders of the 34 CTM organizations do not keep agreements and satisfy the workers demands, "efforts by other organizations will be useless."

The CT, he added, is not bad in itself, it is the leaders who have made it ineffective. As an example, Velasquez said, we can cite current CT Chairman Cecilio Salas, who, without having the authorization of any group or organization, decided to extend his leadership for 2 more months, violating the decree that stipulates that the CT chairmanship can only be held for 6 months.

The labor leader said that this irregularity is not solely the fault of the current CT chairman, but of all the organizations that have not made clear-cut proposals.

Concerning statements by the COR [Revolutionary Labor Confederation], ASPA [not further identified], and the SME [Mexican Trade Union of Electricians] on the lack of political will among labor leaders, Fidel Velasquez emphasized that the CTM "has always warned, and now reiterates, that the CT is practically useless."

## Suspected Medellin Cartel 'Contact' Arrested

*PA2009034089 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0237 GMT 20 Sep 89*

[Text] Jaime Leonardo Valencia Fontes, otherwise known as El Negro Valencia, who is a former Federal Highway policeman, has been arrested by the Federal Judicial Police. He is charged with narcotics trafficking, homicide, and of being a Medellin Cartel contact. He allegedly murdered an entire family, one child, and two Federal Highway policemen. El Negro Valencia was a member of the Federal Highway Police from 1981 to 1985.

After he was dismissed, he continued to pose as a police officer, a lieutenant, or a member of the Judicial Police, and as such he kidnapped a legal clerk and charged him with raping a minor. He demanded the man pay him $33,000 to be released. He has cases pending in Sonora and Jalisco States, and he engaged in robbery, assault, and kidnapping in Jaliso, Nuevo Leon, and Sonora States.

El Negro Valencia testified before the federal attorney that he stole drugs and weapons from narcotics traffickers that he assaulted. The attorney general of the Republic will arraign him, charging him with homicide, kidnapping, assault, theft, usurpation of powers, possession of firearms, and crimes against public health.

## Costa Rica

### Agreement With Nicaragua Against Drugs Foreseen

*PA1909224089 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 13 Sep 89 p 8-A*

[Article by Nicolas Aguilar R.]

[Text] The Nicaraguan and Costa Rican Governments will reach an agreement on implementing mechanisms for the exchange of information to combat South American drug trafficking along the Atlantic coastal area.

This was one of the agreements signed during the 6th Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Joint Commission meeting held in the Public Security Ministry's Aerial Section on 12 September.

Nicaraguan and Costa Rican officials also agreed to make considerable improvements to their system of signs at the border, such as placing new landmarks and lookout posts in strategic places.

The Costa Rican Government agreed to investigate a medical care center for Nicaraguan refugees that operates in Curridabat, as the Sandinists claim that persons treated at this center later return to the armed struggle against the regime in their country.

Social workers and public security doctors will make an in-depth study of the health center and present a report to Minister Hernan Garron, who is to decide on the center's future operations.

The Nicaraguan officials promised to improve their sea and air patrols in the Atlantic to find ships from San Andres, Colombia, that are allegedly carrying drugs to Bluefields, where they will be sent to the port of Limon by sea.

This drug trafficking route was discovered on 8 September after narcotics agents seized 13 kg of cocaine from a gang comprised of Colombians, Nicaraguans, and Costa Ricans.

The Nicaraguans also promised to continuously supply information to the National Police and coordinate possible future actions against drug traffickers.

The Joint Commission will meet in Managua in October to follow-up on the agreements signed.

The Costa Rican delegation was comprised of: Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar; Government Minister Antonio Alvarez Desanti; Senior Officer (Official Mayor) Marino Sagot; Civil Guard Director Juan Felix Barrantes; Narcotics Director Rodolfo Jimenez; and Deputy Government Minister Ines Leon Dobles.

The Nicaraguan officials who participated in the meeting were: Vice Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera; Colonel Roberto Calderon, chief of the Fifth Military Region; Ricardo Wheelock, military intelligence chief of the Sandinist People's Army; and Marcelino Guido of the Interior Ministry.

## El Salvador

### Coverage of Government, Rebel Dialogue

#### FMLN, FDR Leaders Speak

*PA1909153089 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Sep 89 p 2*

[Report by Sergio Ferrari on interview granted to Agencia Nueva Nicaragua by Nidia Diaz and Eduardo Calles, leaders of the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and Revolutionary Democratic Front during the ninth nonaligned summit in Belgrade—date not given]

[Text] Speaking to Agencia Nueva Nicaragua, Nidia Diaz and Eduardo Calles, leaders of the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and Revolutionary Democratic Front], said that if the Alfredo Cristiani government insists on holding a dialogue that is only a farce, the likelihood of a social explosion is great.

A few days before the talks between the government and the revolutionary forces began in the Mexican capital, Nidia Diaz, guerrilla commander and a member of the FMLN's Political-Diplomatic Commission, and Eduardo Calles, vice president of the FDR, who were in Belgrade to attend the ninth nonaligned summit, did not conceal their skepticism of this new phase in El Salvador.

Nevertheless, they argued that there is an intense social movement, the backbone of which is the Permanent Committee for the National Debate, that is not willing to accept a "sham" negotiation. That is why the FMLN-FDR believes that the choice between political solution or social explosion is like a sword of Damocles hanging over the government plans.

[Ferrari] How does the FDR view the dialogue that begins this September within the framework of the August Tela agreement?
[Calles] When we returned to El Salvador 2 years ago to carry out open political activity, our main objective was to promote the political solution of the Salvadoran conflict. For this purpose, we had to encourage a broad national consensus. This effort has yielded results. There is consensus in the country, and there is now a major social movement that includes the labor force, churches, professional organizations, student groups, and small- and medium-sized businessmen demanding that the government hold serious talks.

[Ferrari] Do you think the Cristiani administration is willing to hold these "serious talks"?
[Calles] Cristiani has been trying to turn the dialogue into a charade, and he has continued to insist there is a parallel, which does not exist, between the Nicaraguan contras and the FMLN. I do not think I have to reiterate how unfounded that argument is. The contras are in Honduras, and they were created by the United States. The FMLN is in Salvadoran territory and has the support of a significant social base.

[Ferrari] Is there real political support for the government's position on the dialogue?
[Calles] Although the government continues to insist on a dialogue that is a sham and on the military surrender of the FMLN, it will not achieve this. No one in El Salvador believes that such a solution will be achieved. The people know that the political surrender of the FDR and the political-military surrender of the FMLN would mean the establishment of fascism in El Salvador, and the people want a democratic solution to the national crisis.

[Ferrari] Is there agreement on a definite agenda for the dialogue?
[Diaz] We are willing to discuss immediately a temporary or permanent cease-fire. We would also be willing to discuss some points which, if solved, would bring immediate benefits to the people. These include a reduction of bus fares and electricity rates, which have recently been subject to large increases. However, I insist that the most important thing is an agreed upon cease-fire because these are two forces that must formally discuss this issue.

[Ferrari] What does this mean?
[Diaz] It would be useless for the FMLN to unilaterally suspend the struggle while the repression continues and while the government continues receiving $2 million a day to intensify the conflict. Both sides are armies, both are waging a war, and that is why an agreed upon solution is important.

With all the factors of accumulated power in El Salvador, we think we can advance toward peace in our country. We have moral strength and popular support, and there is no weakness in our positions.

[Ferrari] What is El Salvador's future if a negotiated solution is not successful?
[Calles] There can be no solution without a truly democratic regime. That is a basic requirement. There must be a pluralist model with different principles in the economic field. The government at this time advocates a neoliberal option, which places all of the burden of the crisis on the people. That is why Cristiani is isolated at a time when the people are demanding peace. That is why we believe he must either be serious about a political solution or he will face a major social explosion.

## Cristiani on Next Rebel Talks

*PA2009044589 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Report by Roberto Represa]

[Text] Last night, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said that at the next meeting between the government commission and the FMLN they will present specific points to negotiate a cease-fire.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] We agreed to talk about a halt to hostilities once we had agreed on the procedures according to which the entire dialogue process would take place. [end recording]

President Cristiani described the proposals that the FMLN releases to the media as propagandistic. He believes the FMLN should not release these proposals to the media, because that hinders the dialogue process.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We requested and agreed upon maintaining confidentiality about the dialogue process, because it promotes greater effectiveness in the process. I know I have said this before, but the FMLN has to understand this. If the FMLN really wants to work efficiently, it must stop making public proposals, because that makes stands more inflexible. [end recording]

President Cristiani added that his participation in the dialogue process is possible depending on the results that are attained. Cristiani said that for the time being, his direct participation in the government commission would be mere speculation.

## President on Negotiations

*PA1909155889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1402 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Today, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said that the peace negotiations with the guerrillas will be a "long and difficult process." He warned that there can be no agreements that are not within the framework of the Constitution.

Cristiani, attending the inauguration of a meeting of Central American first ladies on 18 September, said that "it will not be an easy process, we must have a lot of patience, and there are difficulties in separating the two positions. Some issues included in the proposal violate the Constitution, and we can accept nothing that is not within the framework of the Constitution."

While in Mexico City, the rebels made these suggestions to the Salvadoran Government: implement a cease-fire, reorganize the Supreme Court of Justice, amend the Constitution, hold the 1991 elections before the scheduled date, and consider the guerrillas as a political party.

Cristiani said that the government will go to the next meeting with the FMLN rebels to be held [words indistinct] and 17 October in Costa Rica, with a "concrete proposal to achieve an end to the hostilities."

The Salvadoran president ruled out, "for the time being," the possibility of his participation at the meetings with the FMLN, but said that new groups will be joining the talks.

Cristiani said that he had invited the political parties to form an "interpartisan" commission that would be composed of members of the parties represented at the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly. This offer has temporarily been rejected by the opposition parties.

Cristiani said that the official commission found "greater flexibility and will find greater flexibility among

the FMLN commission," but added that the FMLN still "maintains complex and defined positions which make us doubt that they will refrain from using the dialogue for strategic purposes."

The Salvadoran president also criticized the fact that the FMLN made its proposal public prior to the talks with the government commission.

"This cannot continue because it makes positions inflexible and hinders the dialogue process," Cristiani warned.

However, Cristiani admitted that unilateral measures on the part of the government could result from the dialogue "[words indistinct] peace, but within the framework of the Constitution."

The Salvadoran president on 18 September attended the inauguration of the third summit of Central American first ladies being held at a hotel in San Salvador.

The meeting is being attended by Margarita Llach (El Salvador), Raquel Blandon (Guatemala), Miriam de Azcona (Honduras), Margarita Penon (Costa Rica), and Marcia Ramirez Mercado, who is representing Rosario Murillo, wife of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

The wives of the Central American presidents will meet for 3 days to discuss problems affecting the female adolescent population, including, broken families, promiscuity, drug addiction, juvenile prostitution, teenage maternity, illiteracy, violence, and abandonment.

## Police Release 19 Workers Arrested During Rally

*PA2009025989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0142 GMT 20 Sep 89*

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Sep (REUTER)—The Salvadoran Police said today that it released 19 of at least 61 labor activists arrested on 18 September after a violent demonstration during which two public buses were set on fire and a 2-hour police siege took place. The police said that the 19 activists were released on the night of 19 September after it was proven that they had nothing to do with the violence that took place on 18 September.

The police added that the other labor activists are still being detained and face charges that include damage to private property and looting.

[(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0030 GMT on 20 September transmits a 1-minute report saying that "Salvadoran Colonel Carlos Mauricio Aguilar released 28 of the FENASTRAS members arrested on 18 September after describing the workers as antisocials."]

The police used tear gas to force the activists of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) to come out of an evangelical church located in downtown San Salvador, where they had sought refuge after a street protest.

The activists entered the church after some of them had clashed with police and had set two buses on fire to protest the arrest of 14 FENASTRAS members by the Armed Forces.

The police used ladders to throw tear gas inside the church and forced the demonstrators to come out of the church after a 2-hour siege.

No one was injured as a result of the incident, although the Red Cross looked after 20 people, including a few children, who had been affected by the tear gas.

The police initially said that 30 people had been arrested, but in a communique released today they said that 61 people had been arrested.

FENASTRAS members, however, said that before the release of some detainees today, 71 FENASTRAS members were under arrest, including the labor activists who had been arrested prior to the 18 September incidents, and whose arrest was the cause of the 18 September protest.

A U.S. citizen identified by the police as reporter Rachel Wallas, was among those arrested during the 18 September incidents. The reporter was sent to the Treasury Police—which deal with cases that involve foreigners—for her probable deportation.

The authorities did not specify for which medium Wallas works. Military officers said Wallas was not accredited with the Armed Forces Press Office, which registers all reporters in El Salvador.

## Soldiers Accused of Murder, Drunkenness

*PA1909224389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Report by Francisco Martinez; live—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Yesterday we went 180 km east of the capital, where a massacre was perpetrated last week in Canton Llano Los Patos, Conchagua Jurisdiction, La Union Department. The people are angry because men dressed in olive drab and armed with large-caliber weapons, grenades, grenade launchers, and other war equipment, massacred six members of a family. The people, who refused to give their names for safety reasons, said that not all the members of the band were captured, adding that there are more at large, and the people are afraid of reprisals.

Nevertheless, they gladly cooperated with us and and revealed that 8 days before the event, the same men—either drunk or on drugs—crashed against a truck with license plate number 66505, which was parked in front of the murdered family's house. The men in olive drab threatened the family with their weapons and said that the latter had to pay for the damage that the men's own vehicle had sustained. The people added that the truck was taken to a workshop in San Miguel and that the

repair cost was approximately 2,500 colones—which was immediately paid by a member of the family who was accompanied by a man whose picture appeared in a morning newspaper yesterday. The man was immediately recognized by the people. The people added that the same armed men stole between 30,000 and 32,000 colones, along with valuable personal jewelry.

[Unidentified man] "The people beg the barracks commanders to punish soldiers who get drunk while on duty and shoot people for no reason at all. Many people have died as a result of this. We appreciate the presence of the authorities and we feel happy when the troops arrive in a community. You know what kind of situation prevails.

"This small community has witnessed many similar events—lots of soldiers firing their weapons for no reason—but the people could not react in time to prevent the action. We imagine that the same thing was happening again."

[Martinez] "Tell me something, what soldiers patrol this area, those of the CEMFA [Armed Forces Military Training Center] or the DM-3 [Military Detachment No 3]?"

[Unidentified man] "They come from the two garrisons; sometimes they come from the CEMFA and sometimes they come from the DM-3. We had the same problem before. Sometimes the soldiers came home on leave and they brought explosives—which they later detonated. We discussed that with the civilian commission and the problem was solved.

"Now we have the same problem. The soldiers are sent on patrol to Loma Larga, Las Tunas, and Jaguey. Since some of the soldiers are from El Valle, they ask for permission to visit their families. They think that they can squander ammunition simply because they are soldiers."

These were statements given yesterday by the victims' relatives—who refuse to talk with anyone because they are afraid of reprisals. However, they urge the Armed Forces General Staff to investigate the deaths. They have heard that Lieutenant Carlos Luna Marin, a member of the CEMFA who was on leave in La Union, returned to the General Staff in San Salvador. The people also ask the soldiers on patrol to behave, because they sometimes carry out their duties while drunk or on drugs—and sometimes fire their weapons at random.

## Guatemala

### President Warns of 'Plot' Against Democracy

*PA1909191089 Guatemala City Teleonce in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Violence and the procedures adopted by the government to counter it were discussed on 18 September during the inauguration of the Christian Democratic International World Assembly. Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo gave the inauguration speech and exposed plans to destabilize the country.

[Begin Cerezo recording] There are some stubborn people who refuse to accept that people want to live peacefully and freely. There are even some people who use violence to impose their ideas; there are some people who want to counter the Guatemalan people's ideas with confrontation and polarization. Those persons are now preparing a plot against Guatemala's democracy. It is perhaps the most cruel, harsh, and audacious plot ever prepared in the nation's 4 years of democratic history, because—and I want you to carefully listen to this—they have decided to kill prominent political and labor leaders so that the people blame the government—remembering the tragedies which occurred in the past and the illegitimate governments which decided to keep, with death and repression, the privileges that they had not earned.

These people are trying to create a rift between the Guatemalan people and Government; they want us to fall into a trap. [end recording]

President Cerezo addressed the delegates of 54 countries participating in the Christian Democratic International World Assembly, asserting that the efforts to be exerted by his government to counter terrorism should be understood by the international community. He said no one should condemn his government without fully understanding the situation.

President Cerezo also pledged to use every available means to locate those who perpetrate acts of terrorism.

[Begin Cerezo recording, broadcast in progress] ...criminals and we are already looking for them! [applause] And we will punish them according to the law, to give back to the Guatemalan people the liberty that they have enjoyed for 3 and ½ years—because it is the result of many years of sacrifice! [applause] [end recording]

### 'Great National Front' Against Violence Created

*PA1909223889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2101 GMT 16 Sep 89*

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Several Guatemalan sectors, including the Catholic Church, today created the "Great National Front" (GFN) against the violence and terrorism experienced by the country over the past few weeks.

Guatemalan Archbishop Prospero Penados del Barrio, the Catholic Church's representative within the GFN, said that the violence is something that worries us all. "We can see people dying and the law not being enforced," the prelate said.

The GFN has called on Guatemalan authorities to increase their efforts to fight the escalation of violence, the archbishop added.

Jose Pinzon, of the General Confederation of Guatemalan Workers (CGTG), said that the GFN was created to condemn the murders and kidnappings that have

occurred in the country, and to demand the return—alive—of those persons who were kidnapped.

"The GFN rejects and condemns these savage methods that are once again being used, and which are being taken advantage of to return us to the dark, difficult, and cruel past," the labor leader added.

Meanwhile, members of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), a group created following the signing the "Esquipulas II" agreements, said that the "path to reconciliation is farther away than it was 6 months ago."

Jorge Serrano Elias, representing the opposition parties in the GFN, said that "hopes for democracy are fading because of violence and terrorism."

CNR President Msgr Rodolfo Quezada Toruno said that, in addition to the political problems caused by those who do not believe in democracy, peace, and dialogue, there is the problem of extreme poverty. He added that extreme poverty also causes violence.

### 'Violence' Prompts U.S. Travel Advisory

*PA1909165989 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 13 Sep 89 p 2*

[Editorial: "Travel Advisory"]

[Text] In the late 1970's, when the country was plagued by growing violence, the U.S. State Department issued a warning to potential travelers to Guatemala, advising them of the risks that they faced in visiting our country. The "travel advisory," as that warning is called, was in effect for a long time, in fact, until a political system based on a legal regime was established.

We mentioned in this column yesterday that the news abroad about the alarming rate of increasing violence in Guatemala would have immediate economic effects on our country's tourist industry. This week the U.S. State Department notified travel agencies that they must warn travelers of the situation that prevails here. As Guatemalans, we are very concerned with this new situation, which tarnishes the image of our budding democracy. All Guatemalans are very concerned about the government's inability to guarantee people's safety, so we are not surprised that the U.S. State Department has adopted such a radical measure as that noted above.

The travel advisory is a routine measure adopted by the State Department whenever the situation in any part of the world poses risks to U.S. citizens. But let us not forget that it also has a political implication. Guatemala has been one of the examples cited when there is talk of a transition to democracy. The United States has vigorously supported our country's political process. For some time now, it has been obvious that the international enthusiasm regarding what has happened here has cooled. Therefore, it is necessary that the causes of this problem be identified and corrected while there is still time.

International understanding and support for the Guatemalan process by a majority of the nations of the world has been undoubtedly one of the fundamental factors supporting our hope to build an effective democracy in our country. If we lose that understanding and support, the path will be more difficult. We do not want to say that it will be impossible to go forward if the international community becomes indifferent, but it will be much harder to progress toward a regime of complete legality.

Both domestically and abroad, we are faced with the problem that Guatemalan authorities have used a kind of blackmail against democratic sectors by contending that in order to support democracy, those sectors must support the authorities, no matter what errors the commit. Frankly, however, we must admit that this argument has been abused and the results are beginning to be seen. So we insist for the umpteenth time that the government must quickly amend its errors to regain lost ground.

## Honduras

### Azcona Discusses Economic, Political Issues

*PA2009005089 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Yesterday, during a television appearance, President Jose Azcona Hoyos repeated that he will institute the minimum wage before his term is over. He also said that the government will insist on demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras.

During the "Trailblazing" [Abriendo Brecha] program, the Honduran president answered questions from the public about the economy, the political situation, and other important topics we will discuss in this report by Allan Doyal:

[Begin recording] [Doyal] This was President Azcona's response to an initial question dealing with an increase in the fiscal deficit:

[Azcona] To begin with, in relative terms, the percentage [of GNP] has dropped during this administration. The fiscal deficit decreased during the 3 previous years, and this year our goal was less than 6 percent of GNP. It may be perhaps a little over 6 percent. However, this deficit is completely manageable.

It is manageable because a country's growth permits a deficit to exist. The most developed country—or rather the most developed countries in the world—[changes thought] the one that has the strongest economy at this moment, Japan, has had deficits for over 50 years. In other words, the problem is not so big when a deficit can be handled in more or less acceptable ways.

We had a problem during the seventies—I think it was in 1977 or about then—when the deficit reached 13 percent of the GNP—in other words more than double the deficit we will have this year. This year figures of 1,000

million lempiras have been mentioned. A commentator... [changes thought] a writer came up with figures of 1,000 million, and asked why the Honduran president did not tell the Honduran people how much the deficit is, and why the president was exceeding the ceilings fixed by the National Congress. I want to tell you that this shows an absolute lack of knowledge about the budget law. The budget law that the National Congress approved last year is the harshest ever approved in Honduras. It even threatens its violators with jail. This means that after consultations with private enterprise, workers, everyone, the National Congress approved 2,033 million lempiras in national funds. The Congress itself has increased this amount in national funds, distributed among the various categories, to 2,091 million. However, we can say with great pleasure that implementation of the budget with national funds will not reach 2 billion lempiras. It will fluctuate between 1.9 and 2.0 billion. This means we will observe the ceiling that was approved initially by Congress, but will remain well below the budget that was approved by Congress last year, despite the increase of 58 million lempiras the Congress itself set.

This is what I can tell you about the fiscal deficit, about which there is so much speculation. The deficit of the central government will total approximately 400 million lempiras, not 1 billion as is being mentioned.

[Doyal] Another question. Will the next government have to devalue the lempira?

[Azcona] I think not. I think not, and I will explain why. During the almost 4 years of this administration, we have had to make payments on a very large foreign debt. Today, EL HERALDO published what Honduras paid on its foreign debt in 1987. If you read the chart, you will notice that we paid 228 million [currency not specified] against our foreign debt in 1987. This is a great deal more than what was paid by countries like Costa Rica, Guatemala, Paraguay, Ecuador, and many countries the economies of which have been much stronger than our's.

Let me add more data. We have paid the IMF during these 4 years of government—because we have even paid it $4.4 million this year—almost $150 million, and our negative flow with the World Bank during these past 4 years—or better put, during the 3 previous years, because we have not made payment this year—was 130 or 140 million [currency not specified] this year as well. In other words, we have paid out approximately $250 million over and above what we have received from them. When you think of it, we owe the IMF only $31 million. We can repay this during the rest of this year because we are paying it (?$10 or $12 million). So next year the path will be completely clear to reach an agreement much more easily than before.

Besides, it has been proven that it was not necessary to adopt the measures the IMF was prescribing, like an increase in taxes and a devaluation. This means that if we keep the situation as I think we will, the next government will find itself in a much better position to negotiate with the IMF and with the World Bank, because we have made many payments during the past 3 years of this administration. We have paid—and I am not saying it, you can see it in a box in EL HERALDO today—$228 million in 1987 alone. I think we paid a little more than that in 1988.

[Doyal] The president also discussed the possible consequences over the short term from the Honduran Government's refusal to bow to pressure from international financial organizations.

[Azcona] I do not think there will be any. The IMF has not rated us. We have not signed the agreement with it, but we have been paying and have not been rated by the IMF. Many people were happy thinking we had been rated. Therefore, we can go on with the IMF paying the expired amounts one way or another and clearing the way to enter into an agreement. I think that in 2, 3, or 4 months the IMF will realize the prescription it wanted us to swallow was not appropriate for Honduras. If this is so, then it will be much easier and we will be in a stronger position to negotiate with them and sign an agreement. They said that if we did not adopt these measures, the lempira would shoot up to 6, 7, or 10 lempiras to the U.S. dollar. This has not happened and will not happen.

[Doyal] In other words, did your government's measures soften what the international organizations had predicted would happen?

[Azcona] I think we have been quite fair-minded and have allowed them to give us advice on monetary matters. We are more or less emerging and maintaining a firm currency situation. A few days ago COHEP [Honduran Council for Private Enterprise] published or sponsored the publication of a bulletin showing the [currency] devaluation all Latin American countries have suffered, ranging from Nicaragua—which has a devaluation of 23,000 percent—and Guatemala, whose devaluation is 3.78 percent. I think Honduras is shown with 1.8 percent. It is the lowest loss of value of a national currency in all of Latin America.

This means that the measures we have adopted have had a positive effect one way or another. The word crisis is in fashion. Let us talk of a crisis. This means we in Honduras have managed the crisis better than other countries.

[Doyal] Is the United States treating Honduras like a real ally. Does the government have any differences with AID?

[Azcona] No. What has happened in regard to this matter of disbursements is that AID has tried to stick to the IMF position in a way. This has been shared lately by the World Bank. Remember that last year we signed an agreement with the World Bank and the IMF disagreed with it. It seems that this year the U.S. Administration—I refer to the administration, to the bureaucratic part of it—has tried to force Honduras in some way to adopt the measures the IMF recommends.

I see that attitude from various points of view. We are at the threshhold of a new presidential election in Honduras. A new president will be sworn in in January and they [the U.S. Administration] probably wants to put some funds away for delivery to the new Honduran president as they did with me when I became president. I can understand that. That is why I am not desperate. Of course, I would never accept any conditions that step on our national dignity to receive funds. However, we must be honest and tell you that that has not been the case.

[Doyal] President Azcona was also asked whether what Nationalist presidential candidate Rafael Leonardo Callejas has said, that the last two Liberal administrations have wasted over 20 billion lempiras, is true or not.

[Azcona] I think Mr Leonardo Callejas is completely confused. First, the government budgets of the past 8 years have not exceeded 13 billion lempiras. I will tell you something else. Approximately 3.2 billion lempiras of those 13 billion lempiras have been invested in educational programs. I want to ask Rafael Callejas whether he thinks education is or is not a worthy investment.

If he considers education a worthy investment—I do not think he would dare say the opposite—we would tell him that only in education have we invested a lot more than 2 billion lempiras. A larger part of the 3.2 billion lempiras invested in education have been handled by Callejas' partisans at the National Autonomous University of Honduras. His partisans at the National Autonomous University handled approximately 480 million lempiras. I mean, 640 million lempiras. I now ask Callejas whether that money that was handled at the National Autonomous University of Honduras by former special rector Osvaldo Ramos and by the other rector is or is not an investment.

Callejas has the answer to his own question. The education budget for this year is approximately 450 million lempiras. I do not think that one Honduran citizen will dare say that education and health expenses are not an investment, much less will they say that now that we are in the middle of an election campaign.

Thus, there is no sense in making the kind of statements that Callejas is making. We are in the middle of a political campaign. Perhaps some of the experts Callejas has near him have given him that information and he used it as if it were a great discovery. That makes absolutely no sense.

[Doyal] Is your government still firm in its position concerning the contra demobilization in accordance with the Tela agreements?

[Azcona] Absolutely. We are as firm on that as we have always been. The situation is maturing. I want to tell you that the impression President Ortega made on us at that first meeting in Esquipulas and the impression he made on us when he arrived in Tela after having signed an agreement with the Nicaraguan opposition parties were completely different.

The contra movement is the result of a problem that exists and existed even more strongly before in Nicaragua. We have prepared the mechanisms for the contra demobilization. We are insisting on that demobilization and we will succeed. However, the creation—inside Nicaragua—of mechanisms leading to the demobilization of the contras is important. The Nicaraguan Government has to work toward that goal, too. It would be absolutely disastrous for Central American peace to see that after the contra movement is demobilized or partly demobilized, elections in Nicaragua are not completely clean and honest.

I believe the Nicaraguan government representatives gave their word. In addition, this time they are not fighting for their own survival as they were 2 years ago. I think that Nicaragua will open mechanisms leading to demobilization, and that the goals we set in Tela will come true. We will continue to promote the demobilization.

[Doyal] President Azcona was also asked about the increase in basic grain prices and the lack of milk.

[Azcona] There is lack of powdered milk. We have tried to control prices as much as possible. Sometimes we disagree with the attitude adopted by the business sector when it talks about a free market economy and all that. That is not possible in countries where there are kinds of monopolies. We have been controlling prices as much as possible.

We lack corn again. Between tomorrow and the next day, we will receive another 6,000 tons of corn that will be sold at the same price for which the IHMA [Honduran Agricultural Marketing Institute] has been selling it. In addition, we will receive between 6,000 and 8,000 tons of corn in October before the harvest begins. Beans are cheaper than they were last year when there was a lack of beans. There will not be a scarcity of beans this year. We are already harvesting. We have enough beans. In fact, we may have to export beans in October. We did what we could concerning price controls.

[Doyal] Finally, Azcona was asked about the attention his government has given to the health sector.

[Azcona] The health budget is among those for which my government has approved more increases. Unfortunately, a large part of those increases went to the doctors when the doctors' law came into effect. We all know that we approved 30- and 40-percent wage increases for doctors. In 3 years we approved 100-percent wage increases for doctors and we reduced their number of working hours. That represented about 30 million lempiras, which should have been used in other health areas. However, it is not true that we have neglected the health sector. The budget destined for the Health Ministry has increased every year.

There are some problems. We have always had them, but those problems have not increased during my administration.

[Doyal] President Azcona asserted that exports increased during his administration. Azcona added that the minimum wage will be a reality; that the country's electrification will continue; and that the National Congress is responsible for the teachers' law.

### Commission Delegates Meet Contra Leaders

*PA2009004489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2331 GMT 16 Sep 89*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Two delegates of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) and of the OAS met in Tegucigalpa today with contra leaders. This is the first formal dialogue that has been held to discuss the topic of the demobilization of the anti-Sandinist rebels.

Spanish Priest Francesco Vendrell, the CIAV representative, and Peruvian Hugo de Cela spoke behind closed doors for 3 hours with Commanders Enrique Bermudez, "Renato," "Ruben," and Aristides Sanchez, members of the contra political commission, in a place to which newsmen had no access. The international delegates noted briefly that they have started "to touch on the important points" that surround the demobilization of the contras.

Vendrell and De Cela stressed that the demobilization of approximately 13,000 contras who are in Yamales, an eastern region of the Honduran border with Nicaragua, "is not an easy task" and "might take more time than was anticipated."

According to the agreements signed by the five Central American presidents in Tela (Honduras) on 7 August, the contras should be demobilized before this coming 8 December.

The participants in today's meeting discussed the mechanisms and resources for the demobilization, among other aspects which were not mentioned.

The next meeting between the contra leaders and the CIAV and OAS delegates will be held this coming October, possibly in Yamales.

Vendrell and De Cela will return to the United States to submit a report to the UN and OAS secretaries general, Javier Perez de Cuellar and Joao Baena Soares, respectively.

Commander Bermudez told ACAN-EFE in Yamales yesterday that "now it is up to the Nicaraguan Government to promote the demobilization, fulfilling the democratic commitments contracted by the Sandinists."

The contras appear to have a high fighting spirit and high morale, although Bermudez recognized that ever since the United States suspended military aid to the contras 20 months ago "we are in a totally disadvantageous situation."

"During these months we have only received rice, beans, and medicine. That disadvantage, however, is balanced out by the courage and bravery of the militants and the support of the Nicaraguan people," Bermudez, better known as "Commander 3-80," stated.

## Nicaragua

### President Ortega Comments on Arms Shipment

*PA1909233889 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1856 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[News conference granted by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to the national and international press after inaugurating a granary of the National Enterprise for Staple Foods on 19 September—recorded]

[Text] [Ortega, in progress] ...illegal treatment. Nicaragua has normal relations with a number of countries that supply us with weapons, which is a right that any state has. Therefore, the scandal promoted by the United States makes no sense. Nicaragua reserves its right to develop cooperative ties in economic and military fields with any state it deems convenient. If the United States feels that Nicaragua is committing a crime, it should accuse us in the International Court of Justice, which should be the judge, instead of proceeding as it is.

[Reporter] Is it true that you received the [word indistinct]?
[Ortega] We will not go into detail. I will only repeat that we reserve the right to develop economic and military relations with any state. If the United States feels that we are committing a crime, it should file charges against us in the court. The United States commits a crime when it attacks Nicaragua, when it attacks a state as it has. And to justify its aggression, it now tries to question legitimate actions adopted by Nicaragua, a sovereign state. As any other state in the world, we have a right to develop economic and military relations with any nation we deem convenient.

[Reporter] According to reports, the United States claims it has pictures taken by satellite concerning this matter.
[Ortega] That is part of the U.S. attitude of meddling and interventionism, which violates international laws. The United States spies everywhere. Why do they spy? Why?

What is the sense of proving that Nicaragua is receiving a certain kind of weapons? Is that a crime? If it is a crime, why do they not bring charges against us in the International Court of Justice?

[Reporter] Mr President, the fact is that the Soviet Union announced some time ago that it had stopped sending weapons to Nicaragua.

[Ortega] Some weapons are replacements. These are weapons that have to be replaced. If a helicopter was damaged, it has to be replaced. If a helicopter was sent for repairs, it has to return once it is repaired. There are a number of actions in this area, so having a certain kind of [words indistinct] of weapon is normal.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]
[Ortega] We are maintaining the levels the country requires for its defense. We are not going to jeopardize the country's defense.

[Reporter] What can you say about the visits by former U.S. President Carter and the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] and UN missions...
[Ortega, interrupting] We are very satisfied with the visit by Mr Carter and former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. Mr Carter and Mr Alfonsin were able to meet with all sectors. They leave with a clearer view of the honest way in which the Nicaraguan electoral process is moving along.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] vote-counting system independent of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]?
[Ortega] That cannot be allowed. The vote-counting must be coordinated with the CSE, not independently. That has been a misinterpretation. He [not further identified] did not discuss that point with me.

[Reporter] Any official figure must come from the CSE?
[Ortega] That is right, and only logical. Otherwise, we would have another power here.

[Reporter] The political parties' letter apparently complains about noncompliance with the [word indistinct] agreement.

[Ortega] I have a few complaints to make about the political parties, because they have not kept the agreement signed at the Olof Palme Convention Center. They must keep it.

[Reporter] Can you give examples?
[Ortega] All of the political parties have supported (?disbanding) the contras. Later they [words indistinct] talking about amnesty. They agreed that amnesty would come after the contras (?disbanded). They are acting in a misguided way that is jeopardizing the agreement, and are showing little credibility and seriousness.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]
[Ortega] [Words indistinct] The Central American presidents have another agreement that compels us to remove the contras from Honduras. This commitment was made even against the contras' wishes.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]
[Ortega] Before talking of [words indistinct] we must talk of complying with the terms of the agreement made at the Olof Palme Convention Center. They must abide by them.

[Reporter] The political parties are complaining that the draft has continued.

[Ortega] Let them give me the lists, with names and surnames, of those who have been drafted, and where they were drafted, [words indistinct] in the reserves, and that is not part of the agreement. Let them show me proof of those drafted into patriotic military service.

[Reporter] What has been decided concerning the television channel?
[Ortega] They are complaining without reason. We told Presidents Carter and Alfonsin, and the [word indistinct] delegate that no Central American country grants so much free air time so long before the elections are held.

[Reporter] They are complaining about the [words indistinct] channel 2.
[Ortega] They are complaining about everything. They must begin by complaining about their own flaws. That is what they must do.

## Ortega Confirms Receipt of Soviet Materiel

*PA2009003989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2217 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Managua, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega admitted today that the USSR sent to this country a shipment of speedboats and helicopters, but he explained the weapons were "for replenishment."

Last week a U.S. satellite observed the shipping of the Soviet equipment from Cuba to Nicaragua, THE WASHINGTON TIMES, a conservative U.S. newspaper, revealed yesterday.

Following the inauguration of a government grain storehouse, considered by the Sandinists to be the largest in Central America and located 18 km west of the capital, the Nicaraguan president said that the Sandinist Army "is maintaining the same amount of weapons to guarantee the country's defense."

Ortega made the statements to the media in front of Valeriy Nikolayenko, Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua, who preferred not to comment on the matter.

"I do not have that information. I do not know where they got it and I cannot speculate," said the Soviet diplomat, who added that Soviet assistance to Nicaragua was suspended following the agreements signed in Costa del Sol, El Salvador in mid-February of this year.

Commenting on the information released by the U.S. newspaper, President Ortega said the Soviet weapon shipments were "for replenishment." Ortega said that "certain weapons must be replaced when, for example, a helicopter is damaged and has to be sent back to the USSR for repairs. This is normal."

The Sandinist leader criticized the United States for using satellites to "spy" on other countries, which he described as an "interfering and interventionist action that violates international law."

According to the U.S. newspaper, three speedboats equipped with torpedos and four "MI-24" helicopters were photographed by a spy satellite. The weapons were delivered in Nicaragua, according to the newspaper.

The president asked "what sense is there in showing that Nicaragua is receiving a certain type of weapon? Is that a crime? Why do they not accuse us at the International Court of Justice at The Hague?" Ortega said.

The president said that "Nicaragua maintains normal relations with a number of countries, we receive supplies of weapons, and we have the right to do it."

The Nicaraguan president said that "this scandal promoted by the United States makes no sense" and he added that such an action is to "justify the aggression" that the United States is committing against Nicaragua.

### UNO Demands Reorganization of Electoral Council

*PA2009012289 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Text] The political commission of the National Opposition Union [UNO] has sent a letter to President Daniel Ortega Saavedra demanding a second session of the national dialogue that began at the OlofPalme Convention Center. In the letter, the opposition leaders say that the Supreme Electoral Council must be reorganized so that a main member, as well as an alternate member are assigned to each voting location. Likewise, for the political parties to have economic means to participate in the February elections, the government must reduce military expenses and comply with the Esquipulas II agreements.

The UNO document sent to Daniel Ortega Saavedra also says it is necessary to take into consideration the votes of the Nicaraguans who reside abroad, and the Miskito leaders must be allowed to return to the country without any prior conditions. The document also requests that the transfer of the Presidency shortly after the February elections are held must be guaranteed, and also notes that it is necessary to review the political agreements signed at the Olof Palme Convention Center to verify if they are being complied with. The text of the letter will be announced later this afternoon by the UNO Information Secretariat.

### Ortega Reacts to Opposition

*PA1909175689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] The 16th anniversary of the deaths of Sandinist heroes Ricardo Morales Aviles, Oscar Turcios, Juan Jose Quezada, and Johnathan Gonzalez was commemorated yesterday with a lively Face the People meeting with President Daniel Ortega, his cabinet, and some 5,000 peasants and producers from Los Girones, 10 km from Nandaime.

President Ortega entered the town accompanied by approximately 200 cavalry troops. It was raining, but the townspeople who had been awaiting his arrival never left and stayed to state their demands.

Producers and peasants called for more agricultural land, repaired roads, and water and electricity services.

President Ortega ordered that an estimate of costs be prepared and that water and electricity services be supplied.

The neighbors stated their support for the revolutionary process and pointed out that the working people will vote for the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in the next elections because the FSLN is a guarantee of peace.

President Ortega said at this Face the People that if Ronald Reagan wants to come to Nicaragua as an elections observer, he will first have to pay $1 billion. The revolutionary leader said his government invited former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to observe the 1990 elections because Carter has always maintained a respectful and fair attitude toward the Sandinist revolution but Ronald Reagan cannot be invited because he has been an enemy of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process and people.

Commander Ortega said that in the upcoming elections, the confrontation will be between General Augusto Cesar Sandino and Mr George Bush, and that Nicaragua will back Sandino and the opposition will back Bush.

President Ortega said that the Nicaraguan people want the revolution and not the counterrevolutionaries, and, therefore, they will vote for Sandino and not for Bush.

President Ortega also announced that cooperatives and individual producers who acquired trucks and other machinery will no longer have to pay exchange-rate surcharges [riesgos cambiarios] to banks. Cooperatives and individuals wanting to buy tractors or trucks will be able to buy them without having to pay the exchange-rate surcharges and will receive special treatment to enable them to buy their vehicles, Commander Ortega said. He also noted that loans for buying machinery and equipment will not have to be paid on a monthly basis but that payment schedules will be based on the end of the harvest season.

President Ortega also announced that bank interest rates on loans to basic grain producers will be 30 percent less than that charged to the agricultural sector. Until now the interest rate difference between the two sectors was 20 percent.

President Ortega said that he will demand that the country's 21 opposition parties comply with the agreements they signed with him at the Olof Palme Convention Center. The president referred last night to a letter that the opposition parties sent him. In the letter these parties claim the government has not complied with political agreements because it has not released 39 contras. Commander Ortega reminded the opposition

leaders that the agreements state that the contras will be released once the contras in Honduras are demobilized and not before.

[Begin Ortega recording] What the letter really means to say is that the opposition political parties do not want to comply with the commitments they made at the Olof Palme Convention Center. I met there with all the parties—with the 21 parties. The meeting lasted all day and all night, and we all signed an agreement. Now, however, they do not want to comply with the agreement. One point of the agreement states that the contras in prison would be released once the contras in Honduras are demobilized. Now the opposition parties want to make it appear that this is not so. We are going to publish that document again to remind them about what they signed. The same way that some people want to demand compliance by the government, the government has the obligation to demand that these parties comply with what they signed, and we are going to demand that. They must not fail to comply with the agreement they signed at the Olof Palme Convention Center. [end recording]

President Ortega announced that efforts will be made so that enterprises hire demobilized Patriotic Military Service and military reserve workers. He made the announcement in response to a young man who told President Ortega that there are hundreds of demobilized men who do not have jobs. Ortega said that enterprise managers must make a serious effort so that demobilized people are put on a list and hired as soon as there is an opening.

## Coverage of Carter Visit, Actions in Country

### Meets Religious Leaders

*PA2009024489 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Brooklyn Rivera, the Miskito Indian leader who heads the Yatama group [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole groups organization] today agreed to demobilize his forces and return to the country in 30 days. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter made the announcement after contacting Rivera from the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport before departing to the United States. Brooklyn Rivera and the Yatama forces are the first in that organization to accept the amnesty offer. Former President Carter said that Rivera will soon return to the country in accordance with national laws, as have members of the contra directorate, who are currently in Nicaragua participating in the electoral process.

Carter today urged the people of the coast to participate in the elections. He visited the Autonomous North Atlantic Region accompanied by Commander Tomas Borge, president of the National Commission on Autonomy.

Carter, who heads a council of former presidents who are participating as observers in the electoral process, met with 21 religious leaders of the Moravian, Adventist, and Catholic Churches, among others. During the meeting, he discussed with them aspects related to the electoral process, the autonomy law, and the situation of the Indians in general.

Carter's agenda also included a meeting with the president of the National Commission on Autonomy and members of the regional committee in northern Zelaya, with whom he discussed problems that affect the Atlantic Coast and the course of the electoral process.

Carter also met with the Miskito community in Lamlaya, where he urged people to participate in the elections. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Statements Reported

*PA1909165789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter is against clandestine financing of opposition political groups. At the end of a 3-day visit to our country, including a visit to Puerto Cabezas, former President Jimmy Carter said during a news conference that he is against the economic blockade against our country, and of clandestine financial support for Nicaraguan opposition political parties. Carter emphasized the agreements signed by the revolutionary government and the opposition parties, in which it was decided that financing must be the same for political groups and the Supreme Electoral Council. He also said that Nicaraguan laws must be respected. Carter said that on his return to the United States he will try to convince the Group of 8 and the EEC to support the Nicaraguan electoral process.

He said that the Nicaraguan opposition parties are willing to participate in the 25 February 1990 elections despite the many complaints that they have voiced. Carter, who was invited by the revolutionary government to observe the Nicaraguan electoral process summed up his activities in Nicaragua. He mentioned meetings with the President of the Republic, Daniel Ortega, Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado, OAS and UN officials, members of the opposition parties and the Higher Council of Private Enterprise.

The former U.S. President, who is now president of the Freely Elected Heads of Government group explained that in order to decide who will be the winner of the February 1990 elections, samples of hundreds of ballot boxes will be taken representing all the country's areas. He added that the tally of these votes will allow only a 2-percent margin of error.

## Borge on Return of Miskito Leader Rivera

*PA1909223189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commmander Tomas Borge has said that Brooklyn Rivera, chief of the Miskito contra group Yatama [Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Indians, and Creole groups organization], can return to the country, but he must renounce armed struggle. Borge added that Rivera can return under the same terms of other contra leaders who have rejoined the political mainstream. Yesterday, Borge met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Puerto Cabezas. The Sandinist leader said Rivera is fully entitled to establish a political organization, but because candidates must have lived in the country at least a year, he will not be able to participate in the elections for office in the autonomous northern Atlantic Region.

Following his meeting with Carter, an observer of the electoral process, Borge said he concurred with Carter on points concerning the participation of Miskito leaders in politics. Here is an excerpt of his remarks following his meeting with Jimmy Carter:

[Begin recording] [Borge] There is no major change. President Carter's terms seem on the whole reasonable [words indistinct] fully entitled to create [word indistinct] and political organizations [words indistinct] the conditions that are more or less [words indistinct] Mr Carter.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Borge] [Words indistinct] ideal. They are fully entitled to create their [words indistinct] organizations [words indistinct]. Moreover, he cannot be a candidate for a regional office because the law mandates a year's residency. I want to say that over a year ago, I (?mentioned) this to Brooklyn Rivera. I invited him to join the dialogue [words indistinct]. I even told him of the possibility of proposing an amendment to the law so he could run for a regional office. [words indistinct] [end recording]

## Ortega Announces New Benefits for Cooperatives

*PA1909145689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Sep 89*

[Text] During the closing ceremony of the first national meeting of cooperative members yesterday, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced a series of benefits for cooperatives to promote their organizational and productive capacity. The benefits granted by the government include a reduction in interest rates on loans. The new interest rates will be 30 percent lower than those of the productive sector, which will be among the lowest interest rates in the country.

In addition, President Ortega announced the refinancing of debts related to the purchase of machinery and equipment. Those debts will be exempted from exchange-rate fluctuations and will have a 10-to-1 exchange rate.

President Ortega announced that the government will finance duties paid on vehicles, machinery, and equipment by individual farmers and cooperatives. These farmers and cooperatives will only pay a 20-percent annual interest rate, and they will be given a 5-year period, including a 1-year grace period, to pay off the loans.

In reference to the new payment benefits and the concessions granted by the government, President Ortega said:

[Begin Ortega recording] The government will finance 100 percent of the principal of the debt. You will be granted a 4-year period along with a 1-year grace period to pay off the loan. In other words, during the 1st year you would use the loan to pay the duties. That is what we mean by 1-year grace period. If we did not grant that 1-year grace period, you would have to pay the duties and the principal [words indistinct]. We are granting you a 1-year grace period, and, during that year, you will not make payments on the debt principal but only on the duties on the acquired vehicles. After the year of grace, you will have to begin making payments on the debt principal. You will pay 50 percent of the monthly interest rate granted to the productive sector. You will pay half that interest rate. Thus, if inflation is controlled, interest rates tend to go down and that should work out well for us.

We want medium-size and large producers to use tractors and other farm equipment. For that reason, we will finance 100 percent of the duties they pay on the vehicles and machinery they purchase. They will be given a 12-month period to pay the loan, and they will pay 50-percent of the interest rate granted to the productive sector. In other words, they will pay slightly higher interest rates than the cooperatives. We will finance 100 percent of the principal, and we will grant these producers a 4-year period to pay off the debt with a 1-year grace period and 50 percent of the monthly interest rate of the productive sector.

We also want cooperatives to have means of transportation. We have visited various cooperatives and they all demand trucks. Cooperatives complain that monthly payments on loans are too high for them. We know that there are some strong and more developed cooperatives that can pay loans at the current rates, but most of the ones we visited have problems with their payment capacity. Thus, we would agree here with the Transportation Ministry [words indistinct] and transportation committees to set payment schedules on harvests and crops instead of the monthly payments. [end recording]

## Political Program Airs Parties Positions

*PA1200902078*

[Editorial Report] Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish at 0030 GMT on 8 September features

the 30-minute political parties program, with 10 minutes each devoted to the National Action Party [PAN], the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] Party, and the Central American Unionist Party [PUCA].

Dr Duilio Baltodano represents PAN. He introduces PAN President Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, who is also president of the Permanent Human Rights Commission of Nicaragua. Rivas notes that PAN advocates a Social Christian ideology, upholds "the establishment of democracy in Nicaragua, and has opposed all the dictatorial regimes, beginning with the Somozist regime, and now the Sandinist regime." He says that all of the persons struggling for liberty in Nicaragua have achieved a new triumph "with the signing of the document wherein 12 legally registered organizations have joined to form the National Opposition Union [UNO]." He anticipates UNO's triumph in the 1990 elections, because "it genuinely represents the majority of Nicaraguan people and offers Nicaraguans a platform to carry out true democracy, which the current regime that calls itself democratic has not been able to fulfill."

Rivas goes on to say that the 1990 elections will be a "veritable plebiscite in which the Nicaraguans will decide whether they want a dictatorship to continue subjecting the people to chaos and misery, or if they want the beginning of a new era in which Nicaragua will emerge from the prostration in which it finds itself, allowing peace and liberty to prevail amid the true reconciliation of the Nicaraguan people."

Rivas calls on all citizens engaged in the struggle to sign up on the electoral lists during the four Sundays of October to be able to vote in February and demonstrate who the majority is in Nicaragua.

An unidentified speaker, presumably Baltodano, echoes Rivas' words, assessing the current situation of the country. He notes that one of the key aspects of the struggle for liberty and democracy in Nicaragua is freedom of the press, which will permit Nicaraguans to march toward a free and honest electoral process. The speaker notes that although President Ortega committed himself to grant broad freedom of the press during the 4 August dialogue with UNO, the government newspapers BARRICADA and NUEVO DIARIO have pursued a campaign of disorientation with regard to the UNO parties. The speaker concludes by urging all men, women, peasants, professionals, and students to vote on 25 February for the PAN, which has a place for them to build a true democracy in Nicaragua.

The next segment of the program, devoted to the FSLN, features an unidentified female speaker who calls on the women, who are half of the population, to occupy the important role they have in "the struggle being waged against U.S. imperialism." She notes that the FSLN has defended women's rights and women's emancipation since 1979. A recording follows of women lauding FSLN achievements in defense of Nicaraguan women's rights to hold jobs, to occupy important posts, and to be recognized in all walks of national and international life. A representative states that the "FSLN is the only alternative for guaranteeing a future of equality and a future of peace for our children." She adds that "the elections were won by the FSLN on 19 July 1979."

The PUCA representative, vice presidential candidate Daniel Urcuyo Castillo, describes the party colors as blue with white stars, which speak of the purity of the party's nationalist, revolutionary spirit. He notes that the party is a middle-of-the road party, because history has shown that neither the right nor the left in Nicaragua have offered any solution to the terrible problems that have beset the country throughout its history. He notes that PUCA, faithful to the ideals of its founder, Dr Salvador Mendieta, follows a middle-of-the-road path, based on a democratic, revolutionary, and nationalist position. PUCA, he says "offers the Nicaraguan people a solution for all, precisely because it is the middle-of-the-road position." Urcuyo ends by stating that PUCA is the only party that can achieve "Nicaragua's peace and progress, Central American progress, and socioeconomic and political progress."

## 41 Mercenaries Surrender in 6th Region

*PA2009044089 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Sep 89 p 4*

[Article by Moises Castillo]

[Text] Matagalpa—Since the signing of the Tela accords until now, a total of 41 counterrevolutionaries—32 soldiers and 9 chiefs of various ranks—have laid down their arms in the 6th region.

Subcommander Carlos Najar, deputy chief of state security in the 6th region, reported this during a news conference in which he presented the following contra chiefs who had laid down their arms and are members of the "Jorge Salazar Commando Units 1 and 2": Victor Sanchez Murillo (Muralla), Pedro Sanchez Murillo (David), Pedro Pablo Sanchez Murillo (Halcon), Antonio Jarquin Mairena (Rio Blanco), and Victor Orozco Gonzalez (El Bufalo).

Najar, who was accompanied by Captain Jose Reyes, state security operations chief, said that counterrevolutionaries in this region are experiencing a process of deterioration that has produced an increase in the number of contras who have given up their arms, especially chiefs in Matagalpa and Jinotega Departments.

Najar added that the contras are having problems obtaining food and arms supplies and have thus resorted to vandalism in peasant communities.

The ranking military leader said that, along with carrying out terrorist actions, the contras are involved in a political campaign to convince peasants to vote for the National Guard ticket of Violeta Barrios and Virgilio Godoy and are threatening to kill all those who support the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

As an example of the contras' deterioration, Najar pointed out that in the past few days a contra leader known as "Bayonet" threatened to kill Guillermo Castor, member of El Bote's Peace Commission in Jinotega, should he continue to urge counterrevolutionaries to lay down their arms.

The subcommander added that many chiefs who are loyal to former Somozist Commander Enrique Bermudez have been instructed to kill members of organizations that make up the peace commissions because they are urging people to lay down their arms in keeping with the Tela presidential accords.

A contra leader known as "Muralla," who is a company chief from Kuskawas, told journalists that he had been among the counterrevolutionary ranks for the past 6 years. He also said that he and his brother Pedro Sanchez Murillo were kidnapped and taken to camps in Honduran territory.

This contra leader added that he was forced to remain among the contras and that he had tried to escape on several occasions, but was constantly under watch. He claimed to have witnessed 100 murders and kidnappings, as well as the torturing of peasants accused of supporting the Sandinists or of simply opposing the contras.

He added that, speaking as a contra leader, he could confirm that many commando units "no longer want to continue waging war, but chiefs who remain loyal to Bermudez are threatening to kill them should they accept the amnesty."

### EPS Kills 9 Contras Near Puerto Viejo

*PA1909144689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1210 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Nine contras, including a leader of the No 2 Jorge Salazar Commando known as El Negro, were recently killed by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in the 6th Region. Colonel Manuel Salvatierra, military chief of the region, reported that the contras were killed near the community of Puerto Viejo, 10 km southeast of Waslala, when a 30-man group was intercepted by the EPS' Carlos Aguero Battalion—which was exploring the zone.

The military commander added that six contras were wounded in the action. The wounded include a leader known as El Profesor. The EPS also seized a large amount of medicine, military equipment, 42 maps of economic targets, and approximately 50 million cordobas cash.

## Panama

### Nicaraguan Ambassador Decorates Panamanians

*PA2009044189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 16 Sep 89*

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government, represented by Antenor Ferrey, ambassador to Panama, bestowed medals to citizens Rogelio Sinan, Jose de Jesus Martinez, and [former Revolutionary Democratic Party Legislator] Luis Gomez, because of the support these personalities have offered to Nicaragua. During the ceremony, which was also to celebrate another anniversary of the Central American countries independence, Ambassador Ferrey made the following statement to the National Information System.

[Begin Ferrey recording] The medal for the 10th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution was created to recognize all Nicaraguans and foreigners who, in one way or another, were involved at the various fronts of struggle and combat before the revolutionary triumph and who supported the triumph of the Sandinist revolution in the struggle against U.S. power, represented by the Somozist Government.

By bestowing this medal on three prominent members of Panamanian society, the Nicaraguan Government and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is recognizing in these three comrades undeniable abilities with which they have assisted us over the past 15 years—let us say from 1974 to 1989. They have provided unselfish support and cooperation in defense of the Nicaraguan people's cause. By granting the 10th Anniversary Medal, the FSLN directorate and the government wish to recognize the contribution by these men to the Sandinist triumph and to the triumph, over the past 10 years of revolution, against the mercenary gangs imposed by the United States. [end recording]

Concerning his views on relations between Nicaragua and Panama and the United States, the ambassador said:

[Begin Ferrey recording] We are two fraternal nations that have many similarities, especially at the present time, when Panama is directly facing U.S. imperialism, the biggest empire in the world. We were aware, before the triumph of the revolution, that we had to struggle after the 19 July triumph. We were aware we had to struggle against conditions and situations that were going to be created by the United States. We were aware that we were going to build a government for the Nicaraguan people, to significantly raise the standards of living throughout the country, especially in rural areas; and to improve conditions for workers in factories and for the various sectors that provide their valuable cooperation in production activities in Nicaragua.

We began to deliver land to peasants and to take land away from the Somozists and from Somoza. This action set a bad example for the rest of the Central American and Latin American countries, because this is a situation that had no

precedent in Latin America, excluding Cuba. We are not an island, we are within the continent. This angers the United States very much because we are setting a bad example for other countries. We are setting a precedent. We have always maintained that we are anti-imperialist. We advocate the development of Latin America with the support of the world, but with no conditions that obstruct or subject Latin Americans to inhumane exploitation. We have always sought a revolutionary way to build a new Nicaragua, and with this in mind, we represent an obstacle and are an enemy to the United States. Therefore, beginning in 1981, the United States began to generate an entire movement to train mercenary gangs—first at U.S. bases and later in Honduras and other places in Central America—to begin the military siege and hostility to remove the FSLN from power.

Concerning the situation between Panama and the United States, we can infer that the root of the problem is that the Panamanian people want the Torrijos-Carter treaties to be fulfilled, so the canal will be totally Panamanian in the year 2000. The treaty, which transfers total control of the canal to the Panamanian people, calls for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama. This goes against the entire military doctrine of domination that the United States has imposed over the Caribbean and Latin America, which they call their backyard. The U.S. troops will be transferred to other bases in the United States, which will deny the United States military bases from which it can quickly deploy its troops to occupy combat positions according to its objectives.

The U.S. presence in Panama allows it to achieve strategic objectives—communications and military presence—since the United States has almost always been the policeman of Latin America. This has allowed the United States to deploy its troops in the shortest possible time to those places where the United States believes it must be present to subject nations to its own interests. Here in Panama, the Panamanian people, its leaders, and the Defense Forces have adopted a patriotic position and, have clearly and strongly stressed that the United States must return the Panama Canal and evacuate the military bases. This confrontation has made the United States search for scapegoats to try to impose puppet governments that would permit new negotiations that would extend the term to return the canal to Panama—and extend the presence of the U.S. troops in Panama.

Therefore, the United States will adopt various economic measures. The United States will try to twist arms, because the United States is aware that all Latin American countries depend on the U.S. economy, since they are developing countries. In the case of Panama, this is a country that provides services. Although Panama has some agricultural infrastructure, its economic power is basically in the services it provides, which are services that one way or another have to do with the canal. Many of the services are provided by U.S. companies that work for U.S. interests. Therefore, there is a dependence, a tethering line between Panama and U.S. interests. At this time, Panamanian people are cutting this dependence.

Therefore, the United States is going to find ways to impose sanctions at maximum levels. The Panamanian people should then be prepared and ready to fight all those measures. There will be no more loans for road maintenance. The U.S. will close its markets to the products Panama has traditionally sold to the United States. Some offices that favor U.S. interests, such as [words indistinct] will also besiege Panama. All world financial resources will also be cut. Panama should prepare to face this struggle. Panama will be facing 10 or 11 years of struggle, but as a nation with courage and determination, Panama can wage this struggle. [end recording]

### Prospective Appointees for Foreign Minister Noted

*PA1909165589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Sep 89 p A-4*

["Names and Events" column]

[Text] There was talk yesterday among the press regarding the possibility of Jorge Eduardo Ritter being reappointed as foreign minister in view his past success in that office. It was also being said that the appointment would be announced this weekend. However, other sources are saying that the office could be filled by Juan Antonio Tack, Oyden Ortega, or Renato Pereira.

### Institute of Tourism Revalidates Tourist Cards

*PA2009032289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] In compliance with previously established agreements, the Panamanian executive branch has instructed the Panamanian Institute of Tourism to restore the validity of the tourist cards that replaced visas.

The measure, adopted by the executive branch, aims at promoting international tourism, which has been affected to a certain extent since 17 April 1989, when the Institute of Tourism issued a resolution suspending the validity of the tourist cards.

The new measure normalizes the entry of people who arrive in Panama as tourists. The new measure will be coordinated with the Panama Defense Forces Immigration Department.

## Argentina

### Joint Declaration With Paraguay Signed

*PY1709003289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 16 Sep 89 pp 6, 7*

[Report on joint declaration signed by Foreign Minister Domingo Felipe Cavallo and Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana on 15 September in Buenos Aires; by special correspondent Victor Franco]

[Excerpts] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana has led a high-level government delegation on an official visit to Argentina on 14 and 15 September.

Foreign Minister Argana and Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Felipe Cavallo reviewed international and bilateral issues of common interest, placing particular emphasis on the need to strengthen ties between the two countries within the framework of Latin American integration, which is an objective of the two governments.

In line with their political decision, and in compliance with the agreement signed by the two governments on 26 April 1989, the two foreign ministers officially installed the Political and Integration Coordination Committee, which will be chaired by the respective foreign ministers. This committee will be entrusted with the review, follow-up, and promotion of all issues of common interest with the ultimate objective of achieving regional integration.

The foreign ministers appointed Raul Carignano, the Argentine Foreign Ministry secretary for Latin American affairs, and Hugo Saguier Caballero, the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry under secretary, as secretaries of the Coordinating Committee to represent Argentina and Paraguay respectively.

As soon as the commission was installed, the political and economic subcommissions began to work. The decisions adopted at the meetings are as follows:

The Argentine Government announced its decision to look favorably on the Paraguayan Government's interest in operating a fuel terminal in Puerto Zarate.

The Argentine and Paraguayan delegations decided to establish a bilateral working group aimed at the prevention and repression of drug trafficking.

They decided to negotiate a complementary economic agreement with the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] that will seek, among other things, the following objectives:

a. To develop industrial cooperation;
b. To promote the establishment and operation of binational companies;
c. To promote reciprocal trade;
d. To promote integration at the subregional and bilateral levels and greater participation by Argentine and Paraguayan provinces in the integration process currently underway; and
e. To expedite technical cooperation and technological development.

It was decided that a meeting toward these ends will be held in the 2d half of October 1989 in Asuncion.

The two parties expressed their intention to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the energy field, to make greater efforts to increase bilateral relations for the benefit of the two countries, and to draft formulas that will expedite trade in the energy and fuel areas. A technical meeting on these topics will be held in Asuncion on 9 and 10 October.

It was decided to instruct the Argentine-Paraguayan Joint Committee on the Parana River (COMIP) to submit to the respective governments the technical and legal bases for an agreement on Corpus [Argentine-Paraguayan dam project] before 30 April 1990 as established by previously issued orders. [passage omitted]

It was decided to set 22 and 23 September 1989 as tentative dates for a bilateral meeting in the Argentine city of Formosa to discuss matters related to the Pilcomayo River Basin and, especially, to identify precarious projects and prepare a working plan with effective short-term measures to reduce the effects of the river's low level [retroceso del rio].

It was also tentatively decided to hold a tripartite meeting with Bolivia in the 2d half of October in Buenos Aires to discuss the Pilcomayo River Basin project. The exact date will be established after consultations among the interested parties. As a preliminary step, Argentine authorities will conduct consultations with the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], the OAS, and other international organizations to present a report at the next tripartite meeting on the current situation of the project and future prospects.

It was decided to present the problem of the contamination of the Paraguay River at the next meeting of technical representatives for the water quality of the Plata River system, in order to immediately begin studies to identify the causes of the problem and to outline measures to control its effects or, if possible, to find a definite solution. Paraguayan authorities will study the document entitled "Situation of the water quality in the Paraguay River" (April-June 1988, di/RCPT/CA/III-7) so that this document may be updated with new data and technical information to be used for additional work at the meeting of technical counterparts. [passage omitted]

It has been decided to create a working group on railroad matters within the framework of the political subcommission and to promote a meeting of railroad companies of the two countries as soon as possible.

The two foreign ministers exchanged documents ratifying an especially important agreement on border river transportation of passengers, vehicles, and freight.

The two foreign ministers also agreed to exchange a note to temporarily implement an agreement on the return of vehicles that was signed between the two countries on 26 April 1989.

The Paraguayan foreign minister has extended an invitation from Paraguayan President Division General Andres Rodriguez to Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem to make an official visit to Paraguay this year, on a date to be jointly determined, to dedicate the international bridge between Posadas and Encarnacion.

The Argentine president gladly accepted the invitation, and assured that the meeting in Asuncion will help consolidate integration between the two countries.

The meeting was particularly suited to dealing with matters related to bilateral relations. In this vein they stressed the agreement between the two governments to emphasize the efforts being made to consolidate their respective democratic systems, and the integration of their respective economies.

### Cavallo on Falklands Talks, Other Topics

*PY1909155289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1348 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today admitted the possibility that, in their 17-18 October in Madrid, Argentine and British diplomats may agree, among other things, to gradually reduce the 200-mile military exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands.

In a long interview with Radio Mitre, Cavallo reiterated that the U.S. leadership and press are "very interested" in meeting President Carlos Menem and in learning about his program of government during his visit to the United States that will begin on 23 September.

Cavallo said that the Colombian Government's struggle against drug trafficking "should be mankind's struggle" and that the production and trafficking of drugs "is linked to the high level of consumption in developed countries."

He did not rule out the possibility that Argentina and Great Britain may agree at the meeting in Madrid to "gradually reduce the 200-mile military exclusion zone" that the British imposed around the Malvinas Islands after the 1982 war.

"Their general policy is not to make any drastic decisions," he said.

He stressed that "we know they will adopt this attitude and we are organizing our own bargaining power toward eliminating the military exclusion zone or rapidly and gradually reducing it. [no closing quotation mark as received]

He explained that fishing boats from other countries are operating without any kind of control in a southwestern sector of the 200-mile zone and the 150-mile fishing zone.

Regarding reports that a NATO base will be built on the Malvinas Islands, he noted that "our efforts are aimed at turning the South Atlantic into a denuclearized, peaceful zone," which is in keeping with a Brazilian proposal approved by the United Nations.

He stressed that "for Argentina there is no military risk whatsoever," adding that, consequently, "we will propose the elimination of the exclusion zone and a reduction of the British military presence on the islands."

He stated that "we will recover our sovereignty over the islands, not immediately but probably in a gradual manner, by building a feeling of confidence between Argentina and the islanders."

He recalled that the islanders relied on Argentine infrastructure for their survival before the war, mentioning the case of a governess—an islander—who asked at the Argentine Consulate in Montevideo for an Argentine identification card that said she was from the "Malvinas Province." Cavallo noted, however, that this was not a widespread attitude.

He deplored the fact that the islanders' opinions of Argentina changed after the war and stressed the need to restore mutual confidence.

He compared this situation with that of Gibraltar, noting that Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez [title as received] told President Carlos Menem—during his recent stopover in Madrid—that the Gibraltar problem will be "dissolved rather than resolved" through contacts between residents on both sides of the border.

Cavallo added that the possible restoration of diplomatic relations will make the islanders "realize" the need to once again get their supplies from the mainland.

In response to another question, Cavallo said that "the keys to resolving" Argentina's socioeconomic problems are foreign investment and the repatriation of capital.

"Capital is invested only in countries that are fully trustworthy because of their foreign policy and because they rule out war," he concluded.

### Vice President Comments on Drug Issue, Colombia

*PY2009014089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2032 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Vice President Eduardo Duhalde said today that the problem created by drug traffickers in Colombia "cannot" occur in Argentina because in Colombia the drug traffickers practically created a "parallel government with the idea of taking power."

Duhalde favors "sending troops to that country if its leaders request them" because in Colombia the drug traffickers not only buy "large enterprises, companies, banks, and offices," but also "have their own politicians, policemen, teachers, and officials."

In an exclusive interview with NA Duhalde called on society to "prevent" drug addiction in Argentina.

The Colombian situation "is a military issue because a real war is taking place," Duhalde said. He added that Colombia is "divided into two countries: the legal country and the one run by narcotics." He said, "I have no doubt that the legal one will win."

According to Duhalde, what is taking place in Colombia "cannot occur in Argentina for several decades." He said that he personally supports the idea of "sending troops to Colombia if its leaders request them." However, he explained: "That is an issue that has to be resolved by Congress."

He pointed out that "drug traffickers are undoubtedly operating in the country, but their nationalities are not known." He added that "there is an organization that distributes drugs in Argentina."

Duhalde said: "What is taking place in Colombia is a clear example of what is happening on the continent—the production and trafficking of drugs." He added: "Drugs are not produced in Argentina. They are brought from Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru."

He said: "In 1988 in my book 'Politicians and Drugs' I warned about the criminal activities of drug traffickers closely linked to terrorist organizations such as the Shining Path in Peru and M-19 in Colombia."

Duhalde said that "the struggle is against the drug traffickers and their supporters. Ideologies are not involved here because, for example, in Colombia the traffickers are of the extreme right—nationalists."

He added that "the drug addiction problem in Argentina involves youths from 13 to 20 years of age" and that that is why "prevention measures should be taught in schools, where we should tell the truth about the ills drugs cause."

Duhalde, who is going to tour the country to lecture on "how to prevent drug addiction," said that "it is absolutely necessary to include that issue in the educational system, because teachers can become a real force for ending drug addiction."

He revealed that cocaine consumption in the country is coming close to marijuana consumption, which has always been higher." He said that it is necessary to create "very harsh regulations," such as the death penalty, "for people who murder, as is happening in Colombia."

Regarding the chaotic Colombian situation, Duhalde said: "Drug traffickers are a sort of parallel government that aims to take power. I believe, however, that this will not be possible even if they have their own politicians, policemen, teachers, and officials."

He said: "This is not only a Colombian problem; it is a continental problem that no one can solve alone, not even the United States. That is why joint action is necessary to eliminate those traffickers in death."

Regarding his recent trip to the United States, Duhalde said that his talks "did not include possible U.S. military aid to the countries with drug trafficking problems, because the Colombian situation had not yet developed to its current stage."

He called the Colombian cartels "mafia gangs" that are "trying to set up a distribution network" for their merchandise, which gives them a profit of about $150 billion a year on sales of $500 billion."

Duhalde said that "the drug lords buy large enterprises, companies, banks, and offices. They also form relations with politicians and military men." He added that "they have a great ability to corrupt," and "they settle in one place when they are sure they will not be arrested."

## Bolivia

### U.S. 'Bennett' Antidrug Plan Evaluated

*PY1909143189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2149 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Text] La Paz, 18 Sep (EFE)—Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco today said that more than 68 percent of the new U.S. help to fight drug production and trafficking, which was offered to Bolivia within the framework of the so-called "Bennett" plan, will be used by the repressive sector.

This plan was drafted by William Bennett, the director of the U.S. National Antidrug Policy Department [title as received]. It has been submitted to Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia, which are believed to be the main coca producers in the world.

The total coca production in Bolivia totals 150,000 tons, of which 90 percent is used to produce some 72 tons of cocaine.

Capobianco said the "Bennett" plan offers $97.5 million to finance the antidrug trafficking fight in Bolivia during the period 1990-91.

Out of this total, some $40 million will be used for military help: $31 million for alternative development projects; $22.3 million for police and legal programs; and $3.5 million for intelligence programs.

Minister Capobianco added that the military help, which will be channeled through the Interior Ministry, "is not conditioned" to the direct participation of the Armed Forces in the antidrug fight, as asserted by the opposition sector.

The police currently control 80 percent of the antidrug fight and this is why the peasant sector believed that the military help foreseen by the "Bennett" plan would represent a type of U.S. "pressure" on the Armed Forces to take part in the fight.

"The 'Bennett' antidrug plan is highly repressive for Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia, the main coca producing countries," said Paulino Guarachi, leaders of the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers (CSUTCB).

Guarachi added: "Before presenting proposals for an alternative development program, the plan offers troop deployment and an important military and police support."

Opposition Deputy Miguel Urioste asserted that the implementation of the "Bennett" plan in Bolivia will create political and social problems of unpredictable levels.

### Soviet Mission To Study Mineral Plant

*PY2009021089 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Sep 89 p 4*

[Text] The Bolivian and Soviet Governments have decided to carry out a short-range plan to find a structural solution to the operation of the La Palca mineral plant. During its experimental stage from 1980 to 1985, this plant lost about $60 million.

Mining Minister Walter Soriano Lea Plaza announced the arrival of a Soviet technical mission to study the overall technical and financial problems of the plant, which is near Potosi.

The minister said that the officials will try to find a solution to the operation of the "gigantic industrial plant," built by the Soviet Mashinoeksport late in 1970. He added that "the government has decided to find out whether the plant works or not and to make coherent decisions in accordance with reality."

He said that the first talks on this issue were held with the Soviet ambassador in Bolivia and with a representative of Mashinoeksport. This is when a decision was made for the Soviet Union to send a technical mission to study the plant's overall technical and financial problems in order to decide what to do with it.

Soriano Lea Plaza said: "We cannot allow a large and expensive plant to remain inactive in a country as poor as Bolivia."

He added that the problem of supplying the 400 metric tons of lead and silver required by the plant, energy costs in the 1980's, and the marketing of the product will also be studied.

He said that the government wants to find solutions to the problems in order to make the plant profitable, and that Mashinoeksport should guarantee all the technical information. If the plant is not profitable, "we will make the appropriate decision," he said.

La Palca began building its facilities in November 1973, 1 year after Bolivia and the Soviet Union signed an agreement. When negotiations started, the plant was to have cost $40 million. When the documents were signed, the cost had risen to $80 million, and now the cost is calculated at about $120 million.

## Brazil

### * Internal Strife Within CUT Discussed

#### * Document States Differences

*33420081 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 16 Aug 89 p 7*

[Article by Ricardo Balthazar]

[Text] The left-wing groups and factions vying for power within the United Federation of Workers (CUT), which is affiliated with the Workers Party (PT), are engaged in open warfare. The secretary general of that body, Gilmar Carneiro dos Santos, decided to make the differences separating these groups public for the first time, and he released a document yesterday entitled "From Leftism Through Opportunism to Lies and Dishonesty." It is replete with criticisms which have never been aired outside the back rooms of the largest trade-union federation in the country.

The target of this document is the Socialist Convergence, Trotskyite-inspired group which functions within the CUT and the PT, together with other lesser factions, such as the Workers Cause. The factors which led Carneiro dos Santos to draft the document, which runs to four pages in a tabloid format and was printed in 20,000 copies, developed at the end of July during a national meeting held by the banking workers to prepare for the wage campaign of that group, which has a base date coming up in September.

During the gathering, the proposals of the Convergence and the Articulation—the majority group within the CUT and the PT, with which Carneiro dos Santos, the president of the Sao Paulo Banking Workers Union, is affiliated—clashed in the debate on the formation of the command group for the banking workers' organization. Because of this confusion, the CUT groups lost to the unions affiliated with the General Federation of Workers (CGT), the main rival of the CUT, in the vote on the matter. Dissatisfied, the Convergence launched an attack on the Articulation.

One of the leaders of the group, Cyro Garcia, who is president of the Rio de Janeiro Banking Workers' Union and a member of the national board of the CUT (when this newspaper sought to interview him yesterday, he could not be found), published an article criticizing the

Articulation in his union's newspaper. Its text was similar to another published in the newspaper of the Convergence. This was the pretext Carneiro dos Santos was waiting for in order to attack the Trotskyites. "Enough internal debate," he said. "The discussion must be a public one."

He presented his document as an individual effort, going so far as to show it to the president of the CUT, Jair Meneguelli, who tried to prevent Carneiro dos Santos from making the text public. "The battle for power in the union has led to a debate which cannot be kept secret.

"The left wing must abandon its clandestine role and the workers must know who is who, because everyone today is paying for the errors of the minority," Carneiro dos Santos says.

The tone of his document was one of attack. "We are being forced to face a filthy war within our frontiers against sectarianism, opportunism, lies, and dishonesty." One of the directors of Carneiro dos Santos' own union, Dirceu Travesso, who is a member of the Convergence, disagrees. "We have different political evaluations, and this is an internal problem. To transform an internal debate like this into the focus of the wage campaign does great harm to the banking workers and to the negotiations themselves."

## * Public Discussion Avoided

*33420081 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 17 Aug 89 p 12*

[Article by Ricardo Balthazar]

[Text] The leadership of the CUT [United Federation of Workers] does not want the debate concerning the political differences between the groups operating within the body to be a public one. The leaders of this trade-union federation believe that setting forth the internal disagreements outside the boundaries of the unions and the membership weakens the balance of forces which supports the CUT, and damages the image of the organization.

The discussion of this problem took up a large part of the session held by the national executive board of the union yesterday. At the heart of the issue was a document released to the press and to the unions Tuesday by the secretary general of the CUT, Gilmar Carneiro dos Santos. The document criticized the actions of the Socialist Convergence, a group which functions within that body and the PT [Workers Party], in opposition to a number of positions defended by the Articulation, a majority faction which controls the two organizations to which Carneiro dos Santos belongs.

"Making the document public was a mistake," the president of the Rio de Janeiro Banking Workers Union, Cyro Garcia, said. He is the only representative of the Convergence on the executive board of the CUT. "Broadening this polemic is of interest only to the business owners and the government. This could be used against us, apart from the fact that it threatens the unity in our group's campaign. The problem is only of concern to the workers and should be discussed internally."

This dispute between the groups within the CUT has been in progress since the organization was established 6 years ago, and is similar to the battle being waged within the PT, to which the majority of the CUT leaders belong. In recent years, these differences have grown, and more recently, they have led to crises such as that which the prefecture of Diadema, where the Articulation is in command, has been dealing with since last week.

"When it is in power, the Articulation faces crises, just as all groups in power do," Carneiro dos Santos believes. "Members of groups like the Convergence take advantage of these crises to assert their role as revolutionaries, calling other people reformists."

He attributes the growth this faction has seen in the last few years to this "opportunism." At the last CUT congress, in September of last year, this group won 12 percent of the votes as compared to 65 percent for the Articulation and 23 percent for the CUT at the Base, an intermediary group which is closer to the leadership of the trade-union federation today.

### General Strike

At present, one of the main issues dividing the political positions defended by the Convergence and the Articulation within the CUT is whether to call for another general strike. Cyro Garcia's group and the CUT at the Base urge a strike for an indefinite time beginning next month, as a way of accelerating the wage campaigns prior to the end of the year, but the Articulation is reluctant to begin preparations for the strike.

"In our view, the heart of the situation today is the class struggle, the battle against the wage squeeze," Cyro Garcia explained. The Articulation believes that the presidential election is the focus. We regard it as an event which is subordinate to the class struggle." The public exposition of this kind of difference would make coexistence of the political groups in the CUT more difficult and would weaken their actions, its leaders believe.

The bylaws of the union themselves are clear in this regard. "All of the units have the right to formulate criticisms of the discussions of the various bodies in the CUT, but always and only within its structure, while adhering to the decisions adopted democratically," one of its articles says.

Apart from public discussion, Carneiro dos Santos urges the establishment of an ethics commission to examine the conflicts arising in the CUT as a result of political differences, as has been done in the PT. But other leaders of that body believe that if put into practice, this idea would only exacerbate the conflict.

**Role of Convergence**

The activity of the Socialist Convergence within the trade-union movement is focused on its membership, since this faction controls few unions. It is most influential among the banking workers in Rio de Janeiro and the metallurgical workers in Belo Horizonte and Contagem. It also has some activists among the banking workers in Sao Paulo and the metallurgical workers in Sao Jose dos Campos, in Sao Paulo, and Niteroi, in Rio de Janeiro.

This Trotskyite-inspired group usually acts together with other smaller factions, such as Workers Cause and Labor. During the first half of this year, it sponsored the occupation of two metallurgical plants in Minas Gerais—Mannesmann and the Belgian Mining Company—where the workers were on strike. During the general strike in March, a Convergence pamphlet proposed: "The violence is being caused by hunger and the police. The workers have every right to use the methods they deem necessary to carry out the strikes, whether it be seizure, picketing, or any other."

**Workers Party**

Within the PT, the Convergence has criticized the activities of some of the administrations of which the party won control in the municipal elections last year. "The PT prefectures have very often disregarded the program of the party," says Mauro Puerro, who is a member of the faction on the base level organization of public teachers in Sao Paulo. In the opinion of another member of the Convergence, Julio Cesar da Costa, of the Rio Banking Workers' Union, some PT prefectures "make concessions to the business owners." And publishing worker Claudia Izique believes that the PT should "return to its origins." "We must rely on radicalization as an alternative for changing the direction of the development in the country," Costa says in summary.

## Chile

### Pinochet Lauds Government's Defense of Country

*PY1909171689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Address to Army by President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte on the occasion of the Army's Day of Glories; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Soldiers: In my capacity as your commander in chief, I would like to extend to each one of you my warmest greetings on the occasion of the Army's Day of Glories, a date of great significance for all of us. I am proud to be the commander of this noble institution, which has, is, and will always be a pillar in this country's destiny.

The history of the Chilean Army is one with the history of our nation. Despite the difficulties it has confronted throughout its history, the Chilean Army has been victorious in all of its undertakings. We have achieved these victories because we have always been strongly united; because we have always acted as a single unit; and because we have ignored the caudillo-like leaderships that have burdened many Latin American countries.

We have been able to do this because we are part of an active and courageous race, based on a solid community whose members are united by strong values and principles.

The Chilean Army, from the difficult period that led to Chilean independence up to the present, has been and continues to be a zealous guardian of Chilean ideals.

In times of war, its men have written brillant pages of history with their blood, never tainted by a dishonorable surrender.

This is the spirit that has invariably guided us in our defense of Chilean sovereignty; in our efforts to stop foreigners from conquering our lands; and in safeguarding the integrity of our territory.

In times of peace, the Army has been an important factor in the development of all national sectors, so much so that it has become an irreplacable element in contributing to the well-being of the country.

Within this framework, on 11 September 1973 the Army and the other branches of the Armed Forces answered the call of Chilean citizens when our country was facing the most serious crisis in its history. This crisis was not a threat just to the stability of national institutions, but to the survival of the nation itself. When we defeated the Marxist-Leninist totalitariansm of the Popular Unity government, we were fulfilling our unavoidable duty not to yield to the dictates of a foreign ideology.

Our commitment to each Chilean was to restore Chilean cultural traditions and to establish a renewed institutional system to meet the demands of the modern world.

On that glorious day, doing what was necessary to save the nation, the Armed Forces and the Carabineros forces were able to interrupt a process that was leading us to destruction. Through this legal intervention, they allowed Chileans to continue on the path of freedom that we are following today.

Throughout these years, the Army and the other national defense institutions have lead all efforts toward achieving the moral and material reconstruction of our country. With the help of most of the civilian sector, the Army and national defense institutions have established a system of socioeconomic ideas that has yielded favorable and effective results, helping us to achieve development and compete in international markets.

These ideas have been copied by many other countries, and those who criticize the regime should uphold them if they want to avoid the saddest and most negative pages of our history.

In addition to leading Chile on the path of development, our government designed and implemented a program to establish a moderm democracy. Unfortunately, not

everyone understands this. This program ensured that the path toward full democracy will be carried out normally, and helped defeat alarmist forecasts about a division or polarization of Chilean society.

The Armed Forces and forces of order have recovered freedom and democracy for Chile.

Businessmen who have expanded their horizons because of our development; workers who increasingly expect to improve their conditions; youths who can imagine a future that was undreamed of by past generations; and politicians who are now enjoying democratic rules in participating in public service, tend to forget the sacrifice, efforts, and the blood that was shed by the national defense sectors to achieve the level of development that we now enjoy.

Throughout these years, we have and will continue to prove our unselfishness, our democratic ideals, and our respect for the laws. These are traits that have always characterized us.

We are and will continue to be the main protagonists in our nation's struggle to achieve freedom and greatness. Those who are enjoying and will continue to enjoy these benefits would be unfair to ignore the contributions that the Armed Forces and the forces of order have made to recent Chilean history and all that they had done before.

Gentlemen: We have faithfully complied with the goals we outlined on 11 September 1973: to build the political, economic, and social institutions of the country in compliance with Chilean traditions. The mission established on that memorable day has been completely fulfilled. In fact, the renewed and strengthened democracy that has been established has already showed its effectiveness and strength. The socioeconomic system has restored the productive apparatus and brought a renewed dynamism to the creativity of all Chileans.

It cannot be denied that the Armed Forces and forces of order have successfully achieved the mission they set out to accomplish when they assumed power.

Those who, throughout these past years, have criticized us must admit that they were mistaken. They did not believe that a military government would be able to restore social peace, but they were wrong. They did not believe in our capacity to lead a true democratic process and to achieve development, but they were wrong. These sectors were wrong because they have ignored or have shown no interest in understanding our actions, our virtues, and our history.

On this day, as we commemorate the Army's Day of Glories, such an important day for all members of the Army and for the entire nation, I hereby express my sincere recognition of all Army members and their beloved families for their sacrifices in these 16 years. They deserve the gratitude of all Chileans, particularly because we have restored Chilean traditions.

I urge them to carry on, so that together we may tread the path of professionalism, excellence, and unity. In this way we will follow with dignity those martyrs who today watch us from beyond; martyrs who, moved by their love for their fatherland, gave their lives for the well-being of their fellow Chileans. Viva Chile!

## Colombia

### Israeli Mercenary Says 'Will Cooperate'

*PA1909201289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1733 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Report by Carlos Arturo Paez]

[Text] This afternoon, the Senate expects the government to react to remarks from parliamentarians about the presence of foreign advisers in Colombia to train self-defense groups.

Meanwhile, in Israel, mercenary suspect Wair Klein said he will fully cooperate through his country's police to clear accusations against him. The Colombian Government issued an arrest warrant for him.

Although it is true that there is no extradition treaty between Colombia and Israel and that Wair Klein and Arik Acek will not be brought to our country for that reason, they will not be able to leave their nation. The DAS [Administrative Department of Security] advised Interpol about the arrest warrant issued by Bogota's Third Court public order judge accusing them of collusion to commit a crime.

This morning Klein offered to help solve the case from Tel Aviv, through the Israeli police. He also confirmed that a former Colombian deputy minister was his first contact in coming to our country.

This official told Klein that his activity, training paramilitary members in the middle Magdalena region, would be the last effort to save Colombia from anarchy.

Regarding Acek, it is known that he is engaged in the business of shipping flowers from Bogota to Miami and that he met with Klein several times at the Country 85 Hotel in northern Bogota. Acek's last meeting with Klein was to forewarn him about the danger involved if he stayed in Colombia.

In a recent remarks to a Bogota newspaper, Acek said: I helped Klein find a taxi to leave the country. I suggested to him that he should find out if the authorities were after him. However, he left Colombia legally. He went through customs and the DAS and was not stopped.

In the same interview Acek added: I had nothing to do with his businesses. However, many people would come to the hotel to negotiate with Klein. Now, the authorities, through the Colombian Embassy in Israel, will call for the international aid needed to establish if there are

foreign mercenaries in Colombia. This is a topic that the defense and government ministers will be asked about at the Senate this afternoon.

### Disclosure of Drug-Trafficking List Urged

*PA1909203389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1737 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Report by Jesus Garzon]

[Text] Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez made the news. The government and political parties today backed his proposal calling for the disclosure of the names of personalities who are linked to drug trafficking.

[Begin Gomez recording] There are many sinners. People who, as we say, have skeletons in their closet. Let us hope that if it is a matter of making disclosures, then everything will come out in the open. I would agree with that. The country has not been told the full story. I wish it was told. [end recording]

These remarks by Medellin Mayor Gomez caught the public by surprise. For the first time, the topic was briefly discussed and reaction poured in right away. The first to support this proposal was Government Minister Orlando Vasquez Velasquez, who described it as advisable for the country.

[Begin Vasquez recording] Of course, it is advisable for the country to learn about that list. [end recording]

Today, the political parties expressed support for Gomez' proposal. The Conservative Party and the Patriotic Union also backed Gomez' request for a publication of the list of personalities linked to drug trafficking.

[Begin Conservative Party leader Alvaro Leyva recording] The government claims it has a list and so does the U.S. Embassy. I think it is good to publicize the names so we know where we stand. [end recording]

[Begin Patriotic Union President Diego Montana Cuellar recording] We need for that to come out in the open so that the clean side of this country—its large, poor majority—can assume the right to exercise political power. [end recording]

Medellin Mayor Gomez said that if the drug-trafficking business is completely uncovered, a lot of people will be brought down by it.

### Infiltrations Denounced

*PA2009014289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0029 GMT 20 Sep 89*

[Text] During the Senate debates on drug trafficking that resumed today, Government Minister Orlando Vasquez made serious revelations. This is last minute news:

The minister said that there are all sorts of infiltrations in the government, the Congress, and the state's security corps. This is the only way to explain a secret report by the Administrative Department of Security, to which Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran had access. Vasquez said that the country's current violence stemmed from the symbiosis of guerrillas and drug traffickers.

[Begin Vasquez recording] Just as we see infiltrations in these confidential reports, we also have all sorts of infiltrations by groups trying to destabilize the state. There are infiltrations in the Congress and the state security corps—the agencies we rely on to gather information legitimate authorities and institutions must know. [end recording]

Social Conservative Senator Gustavo Rodriguez said that before judging the government's stance, the Senate and Congress must become moral authorities to do so. He voiced his solidarity with the Medellin Mayor, noting that if there is a war, it must be a total war, and that the names of politicians and newsmen involved in drug trafficking must be revealed.

### Interview With MORENA Leader on Terrorism

*PA1909223289 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Sep 89 p 3-A*

[Interview with Fernando Vargas, leader of the National Renewal Movement (MORENA), by Sergio Ocampo Madrid and Maria del Rosario Arrazola from EL TIEMPO—date and place not given]

[Text] [EL TIEMPO] Do you support the self-defense groups?
[Vargas] No. MORENA wants to channel the country's primary focus—the guerrillas are destroying everything. Legitimate defense is a natural right and we recognize it; it is bad that it is banned by the government. MORENA does not want that natural right to be taken away. We want to channel the guerrilla movement along democratic paths so that rural areas are well-represented and peasants recover their faith in institutions. MORENA currently presents the most serious peace proposal.

[EL TIEMPO] Yet you do have close ties with ACDEGAM [Middle Magdalena Cattlemen's Association], a group that supports the self-defense groups.
[Vargas] We have no ties with ACDEGAM. They have stated that they will draft lists of assembly and council candidates with us by means of alliances with conservatives and liberals. ACDEGAM's adherence does not compromise MORENA, only ACDEGAM.

[EL TIEMPO] MORENA's position toward the guerrillas is very clear. However, the same cannot be said about drug traffickers.
[Vargas] Drug trafficking is immoral because of the way it is consumed. It is harmful to youths and the conscience.

[EL TIEMPO] What should we do with the drug traffickers, then?
[Vargas] All men should obey the law. We are waiting for the Armed Forces to raid and confiscate the properties of

drug traffickers in La Uribe. The guerrillas should be made to obey the law, as well. The United States should be very clear with us and not have a double standard.

[EL TIEMPO] How do you explain that one of MORENA's leaders, (Armando Valenzuela), praises Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha in his book?
[Vargas] That compromises an individual. He will explain it personally. He needs to do it.

[EL TIEMPO] Do you believe that talks should be held with the drug traffickers?
[Vargas] Eight years ago the government began to hold talks with the La Uribe cartel. We must be clear—either we speak to all or we speak to no one. We cannot have it both ways.

[EL TIEMPO] What do you think about extradition?
[Vargas] It is the government's admission that it is unable to punish those who violate the law. Extradition violates our sovereignty and that is very serious. Narco-guerrillas should not be extradited. This is perhaps the only area where we agree with the Colombian left; we refuse extradition.

[EL TIEMPO] Is it true that you support Hernando Duran Dussan?
[Vargas] We have never supported anyone, but we have a strong inclination toward Ernesto Samper. We also like Alvaro Gomez. Nevertheless, we will support a candidate, not someone who has not been nominated. We must wait.

[EL TIEMPO] Many people say you are a mixture of drug traffickers, self-defense groups, foreign mercenaries, and paramilitary groups. What do you say to this?
[Vargas] I know what people say about us and I know about the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] report on the middle Magdalena region. We hope DAS Director General Miguel Maza Marquez has all the information and all the necessary evidence. We did not create ACDEGAM and ACDEGAM did not create us. MORENA was not born in the middle Magdalena region. Our electoral force is in the plains area [Los Llanos], in Cordoba, Uraba, Antioquia, Santander, Narino, Valle, and Cauca.

[EL TIEMPO] Did you know about the presence of Israeli and British mercenaries who trained self-defense groups in the middle Magdalena region?
[Vargas] The government knew about it. The DAS knew about it as well. The DAS even asked them for assistance. It was well-known, but MORENA was not very sure about it. However, we are sure about the presence of Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Soviet mercenaries among the guerrillas. The government is aware of this too.

[EL TIEMPO] What are MORENA's ties with former Puerto Boyaca Mayor Luis Rubio and Luis Ramirez?
[Vargas] I do not know them personally. In fact, we have been accepted in so many circles that we cannot control everything.

[EL TIEMPO] It is rumored that the rally in Yacopi included people who supported MORENA because they feared reprisals...
[Vargas] That is a lie. That was the first time the peasants of Yacopi were able to attend a rally without being harassed by the guerrilla groups.

[EL TIEMPO] What will you do if MORENA is not granted legal status?
[Vargas] We do not think our status will be denied because we are democrats and we defend the system. We will fulfill all the requirements demanded by the law. If we are not given the permit despite all this, then we will continue to work and issue lists at the department and municipal level.

[EL TIEMPO] How will you get financing?
[Vargas] From the money that honest Colombians want to give us.

[EL TIEMPO] Does this include illegal money?
[Vargas] No, but drug trafficking has infiltrated every sector of the country, so it will be difficult to ascertain where all the funds come from. Anyway, we do not accept that kind of money directly. The idea is to issue bonds for several amounts, between 1,000 pesos to 100,000 pesos; these will be bought by those who want to support us.

[EL TIEMPO] What is MORENA's ideological position?
[Vargas] Ideologically speaking, we are right-wing. We are the voice of a Colombia martyred by subversion—widows and orphans. Democracy is being annihilated by subversive groups and the irresponsible left. Our proposal is to restore values; we mainly follow the church's social doctrine.

[EL TIEMPO] Why this aversion to anything resembling communism?
[Vargas] Communism is the primary factor of violence in the country. Communists create poverty, misery, and unemployment; then they take that poverty as their cause against a system that gives them all the guarantees. That was a phenomenon exported by the Soviet Union through its satellite, Cuba. Communism is totally opposed to Christian philosophy. Its concept of man is materialistic. Communists advocate the rupture of family ties. Communists are atheists and man must fear God so that there is no transgression of norms. For example, the theory of evolution deprives God of his role as creator.

[EL TIEMPO] What do you propose, returning to Adam and Eve?
[Vargas] The secret is in the creed. There is no discrepancy between faith and science. The theory of evolution is being completely re-evaluated. We must return to creationism.

[EL TIEMPO] How do you reconcile a democratic project with the proposal of totally eradicating all other ideological groups? What about Christian tolerance?

[Vargas] We basically propose the eradication of guerrilla groups. The Communist Party of Colombia and the Patriotic Union are parties recognized by the law and they are free to participate in politics. We want to unmask and combat the communist doctrine and ideology. We want to refute them with a serious and strong position. We want to defeat them in the elections.

[EL TIEMPO] Are you willing to cooperate with the current peace process?
[Vargas] One cannot negotiate with armed people. They have perpetrated crimes for a long time. Nevertheless, this can be pardoned by decree, forgetting about a sentence and punishment. The basic thing is for them to put down their weapons and then we will see...

[EL TIEMPO] You are solving the legal problem. What about the moral problem?
[Vargas] That is something God must decide and judge. God will judge them and punish them.

[EL TIEMPO] You have not answered the question. Would you negotiate with the armed rebel groups?
[Vargas] I would if they establish no conditions. The government must attain that goal by enforcing the norms.

[EL TIEMPO] How do you achieve peace according to MORENA?
[Vargas] Enforcing the law. Above all, it is necessary to enforce Article 121, and the Armed Forces and security organizations must work efficiently. Order and discipline must prevail. We are not violent people. We reject all forms of violence. We believe in the strength of the law. Violence is only justified when used in defense.

## Country Still Plagued by Drug Violence

### Drug Barons Offer Reward

*PA2009014789 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0014 GMT 20 Sep 89*

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 19 Sep (REUTER)—Presumed drug barons today offered a $250,000 reward for any information leading to the capture of an Army general they accuse of violating human rights in Medellin, Colombia's drug capital.

The reward for the capture of General Jaime Ruiz Barrera, who served as commander of the Colombian Army's 4th Brigade headquartered in Medellin until about 2 months ago, was announced in leaflets that appeared mysteriously in downtown Medellin.

The leaflets are similar to those that the government distributed 2 weeks ago offering a $250,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Pablo Escobar Gaviria and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who are accused of being leaders of the Medellin cocaine cartel.

The leaflets that appeared here today state that anyone interested in the reward must contact "the Extraditables," a group that is so called because the United States is requesting the extradition of the drug barons.

The leaflets accuse Ruiz of being "a traitor of the fatherland" for murdering innocent peasants, raping women during the raid of drug baron residences, and torturing their children and relatives in violation of due process.

A Colombian Defense Ministry source said that Ruiz, who had worked in Medellin for 2 years, is now working at the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington.

Defense Ministry spokesman Colonel Eduardo Arevalo refused to comment on the general's whereabouts.

During a telephone interview, he said that "we are not allowed to comment on this."

"This matter pertains only to military intelligence," Arevalo added.

### Army Lieutenant Killed

*PA2009030689 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0208 GMT 20 Sep 89*

[Report by Rodrigo Martinez]

[Text] Medellin—Army Lieutenant Cesar Augusto Garcia Saavedra, member of police battalion No 4 in the city of Medellin and member of the intelligence section of the 4th Brigade, was killed by a hired assassin as he sat in a restaurant on 70th Avenue in western Medellin with his girlfriend.

Veterinarian Guillermo Leon Uribe Toro, 40, owner of a store that sells agriculture and veterinarian supplies located in Don Matias Municipality, northern Antioquia Department, was also killed in the attack.

Quildardo de Jesus Gomez, 26, the restaurant's security guard, was wounded in the leg.

According to reports received by Caracol, a hired assassin carrying a submachine gun entered the restaurant and opened fire, inflicting the casualties mentioned above.

### Bombs Detonated in Bogota

*PA1909191589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1739 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Report by Alvaro Ayala]

[Text] Unfortunately, the wave of terrorism has not stopped here in the capital or in several other Colombian cities.

Five people, including one criminal, were wounded as a result of this latest wave of terrorism.

One bomb exploded at the telephone exchange in the Normandia neighborhood. Another attack was carried out in San Nicolas neighborhood, northwest Bogota, where humble merchants were affected.

The authorities who conducted judicial investigations at a shopping center in northern Bogota were surprised that there were no government offices or bank branches nearby.

In this case, those affected were: a shoe store, a bakery shop, a drug store, and a children's furniture store.

The bomb, which weighed 1.5 kg, was attached to an electric pole, which was split by the bomb. The pole will have to be replaced now to prevent it from falling on nearby homes.

A shoemaker who was changing his overalls to go home was wounded in the arm. A girl who was leaving the bakery shop was slightly injured.

At the same time, 1910, another explosion shook western Bogota: a bomb with a slow-burning fuse that was activated by a terrorist—who was apparently wounded by a watchman—went off at the Normandia telephone exchange, damaging 35,000 telephone lines.

The criminals fled in a taxi. Police immediately surrounded the area, but no one was arrested.

## * Reportage on Second UP Party Congress

*33480255 Bogota VOZ in Spanish 13 Jul 89 pp 10-11*

[Unattributed report: "To Develop the Policy of Convergence"]

[Text] [Box, p 10]

The plenary meeting of the party Central Committee began with a moment of silence in honor of Teofilo Forero, Jose Antequera, Jose Antonio Sotelo, and Orlando Higuita, members of this executive body. They had actively participated in the deliberations of the last plenary meeting, and their physical absence from this meeting because of the dirty war graphically emphasizes the harsh conditions under which Colombian Communists operate.

The plenum, held in Bogota on 8 and 9 July, covered the problems of Communist trade union efforts, matters related to the election campaign, and the upcoming congress of the Patriotic Union (UP).

It was chaired by Alvaro Vasquez del Real, undersecretary general of the party, and by German Cobo, Carlos Romero, Gustavo Osorio, and Gladys Oliveros. The reports were the responsibility of Gustavo Osorio (the party's trade union efforts) and Carlos Romero (election campaign and UP congress).

The lively discussion at the two plenary sessions and in various working committees enriched the reports that were presented. It was agreed that a committee would be appointed to redraft the trade union report, and the report on election matters was approved with certain corrections. In addition, a committee was appointed to draft the political declaration of the plenum.

As for the election campaign, it was agreed to pursue talks with various parties, movements, and individuals in order to find a presidential candidate of broad support who represents the country's democratization outlook, and the entire membership of the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) was urged to contribute actively to the preparation of the Patriotic Union Congress that will take place in early September.

In this edition, VOZ presents the highlights of the report submitted by Carlos Romero and the conclusions on the work done in the trade union movement.

### Highlights of Report on Election Campaign and Second UP Congress

#### Nature of UP Congress

Carlos Romero reported that the last UP plenum concluded with a statement that the 2nd Congress should be far-reaching and should be preceded by major discussions on a wide variety of topics with a view to unity and convergence, and with the participation of friendly organizations. He also reported that it was concluded with regard to the electoral debate that the UP would participate in the elections, demanding guarantees, of course, and pointing out to the government the need for international observers to be present before and during the balloting. Specifically, participation in the election was endorsed.

#### Communists' View of the UP

He went on to point out that it is important and appropriate to express some of the PCC's views on the UP. "Since its inception, the UP has been able to count on the decisive and open participation of the Communists. The PCC assigned members of its political directorate at all levels to participate in the UP, as was appropriate. We have always felt that the UP should become a broad-based movement capable of bringing together broad popular sectors and attracting the independent forces of the traditional parties. We also believed that the convergence could be channeled through the UP, and it showed in practice that it was the new forum for the emergence of new political cadres with a presence in national life.

"Through the UP we were able to pave the way for alliances with different political sectors, from the left, from the Liberal and Conservative parties, and from the popular civic movement. This made possible the election of a significant number of councilmen, deputies, and congressmen.

"The fact that the UP is a movement with a broad base and a democratic nature, that it forms the foundation of a great popular and national convergence, is still relevant, still just and correct."

**PCC-UP Relations**

"It is clear to us that the UP does not run the PCC, nor does the PCC run the UP. We Communists are participating in the UP, and of course we want to make its decisions reflect popular and national interests, the democratic demands and interests of our people. We do not expect the UP to be a mechanical reflection of the criteria and objectives (including the tactic of combining all forms of struggle) in its pronouncements and practical daily activity. But it would not be fair, either, to ask the PCC to support programs that are alien to the very essence of the Colombian people's struggle, in their struggle to find a political solution, in the struggle against the dirty war and militarism, in the struggle for democracy and the social and economic rights of workers and of the people as a whole."

**Contribute to 2nd UP Congress**

"It is important, then, for us Communists to act with persuasion, with a broad perspective, without sectarianism, without exclusiveness, and with patience, listening respectfully to different and opposing opinions in the UP, but seeking agreements that will guarantee that the UP remains in essence a Patriotic Union movement of Colombians, working to defend sovereignty and the great national majorities.

"The PCC must contribute to the political debate within the UP on the occasion of the 2nd Congress by expressing these points of view. It should also contribute to the success of its 2nd Congress by preparing and promoting delegations that are as broad-based as possible. In furtherance of this goal, it must join together the Communists who are specifically working in the UP and ensure that they bring coherent proposals that will give a major impetus to the organization and to the projection of its political proposals."

**International Relations**

As for international relations, the report states:

"In our opinion, the appropriate thing to do is to advance relations of a pluralist nature on the international level with all democratic and progressive organizations in the world, extending and receiving solidarity. Rather than joining one of the international organizations, the best thing would be to maintain good and effective relations with all of them, participating in as many events as possible, and debating comprehensively the problems of the present, in defense of the process of peace and detente, in favor of respect for human rights in all countries of the world, in support of the just struggles for national liberation from colonialism and neocolonialism, and of course, in repudiation of American interventionist policy, as in the case of Nicaragua and Panama."

**Relations With the Armed Forces**

In pointing out the tremendous importance of relations established at the highest level between the UP and the Armed Forces, the report indicated that these relations must naturally remain cordial and permanent, but that they must not lead to the concealment of complaints about serious cases of increasingly large nuclei of military personnel playing a role in the nefarious phenomenon of paramilitarism. This is a great opportunity to engage in frank discussions and to point out the need for changes in the fundamental orientations of the Armed Forces, emphasizing how counterproductive the doctrine of national security is.

**Prospects of the UP**

Finally, the report notes that in spite of the tremendous difficulties and the bloody repression to which the UP has been subjected, and within it the members of the PCC, the fact is that favorable public opinion and political space have been gained.

"It is also true, however, that the UP needs to combine its activity of high-level contacts and meetings, whose importance no one disputes, with direct work among the popular masses. In addition to the efforts for peace and a political solution and against the dirty war, the UP should also pay attention to the problems of unemployment, to the problems of the workers' demands, to the problems of economic development, to the phenomenon of privatization, and to others, with a view to putting together a great movement that will make a reality of the economic and social transformations that our people desire.

"It is also necessary for the UP to clarify its organizational line. It is true that the UP is not in a position to attract in an organized manner all the sympathy that has been generated around it, but it is also true that much of that sympathy can be transformed into flexible organization, without rigid regulations and without any attempt to mechanically transform the PCC's organizational entities into UP organizations."

**Conclusions of Central Committee Plenum on Trade Union Efforts**

**National Campaign**

1. To develop a major national campaign for the defense of trade unionism and for unity. In this regard, full labor and political guarantees will be demanded for Colombian workers, and an effort will be made to strengthen the Central Organization of Workers (CUT) and to establish large unions and federations in the service and production sectors.

The campaign will be coordinated with the party's masses and ideology departments and with the secretariats of education, trade unions, organization, and propaganda, and an effort will be made to incorporate friendly intellectuals and trade unionists into the campaign. We will draw on all of the party's publications and informational media at both the local and national levels.

2. To contribute to the preparation of the Second CUT Congress, which will be held next 4-8 December in

Bogota. The Communists who are active in the trade union movement will encourage trade union assemblies for the purpose of democratically electing delegates to the Congress and of promoting the Congress among workers. It will also promote the discussion of the central organization that the workers need for their struggles and the defense of their rights.

**National Conference on Trade Union Efforts**

3. To convene at the end of next September a national conference on the party's efforts in the trade union movement, for which purpose the following draft agenda is proposed:

3.1. Organic growth and political influence of the party on the trade union movement;

3.2. The Communists' position with respect to changes in the organization of labor and in the 2nd Congress;

3.3. The Communists' position on trade union unity and the 2nd CUT Congress;

3.4. Development of the UP's national election campaign in the trade union movement.

**Strengthening the CUT**

4. To work intensively for the defense and strengthening of the CUT at the national level, in terms of its unity, democracy, and pluralism. To express our complete disagreement with the policies of trade union blocs or currents that are trying to compete with each other within the CUT, as we consider them a threat to the unity of the CUT and to its pluralist nature. We Communists favor a unified CUT, not the existence of small blocs or groups of unions, as the only thing they foster is pessimism in the outlook for unity, paralyzation of the democratic activity of trade unions, and violation of the postulates and mandates of the CUT Constitutional Congress.

5. To improve national, regional, and local coordination on the part of the Communists who are active in the leadership of the CUT and of federations and unions, for the purpose of expanding the scope of our political trade union efforts and overcoming the flaws and deficiencies that we have in our trade union work.

**Improve Our Work**

6. To draw on the positive and negative experiences we have had in disseminating publications and political opinions of Communists in important sectors such as the teaching profession with "Teacher and Combatant," in the civil service sector with "New State," and in the petroleum sector with "Red Drill," with a view to continuing the analysis of ways to find the most effective mechanisms for bringing the Communists' opinions and political initiatives to the trade union movement, and ensuring that these opinions and initiatives will be supported and defended by broad sectors of workers.

7. To promote throughout the country actions by the leaders of regional committees with the Communists who are active in trade unions, in order to adequately prepare the working plan to promote the Second CUT Congress, to prepare the conference on trade union efforts, and to stimulate democratic discussion among Communists and friends of the party regarding the document on the party's trade union efforts that was approved by the plenum of the Central Committee and that is being sent to the rank and file the fourth week of July.

8. To promote periodic meetings of the National Trade Union Commission with comrades who are union leaders in the regions and the major production sectors, services, and the farm sector, with a view to attaining a better appreciation and planning of the Trade Union Commission's national work.

9. The National Committee of the Party will immediately appoint the head of the Department of Mass Work of the Party, and will guarantee normal operations in that entity.

**For Convergence**

10. The policy of convergence is what must guide us in the practical development of our trade union activity. In this regard, all of us who are building trade union unity have much in common in the political, economic, and social spheres. Our political objective should always be to expand and consolidate these areas of agreement, with flexible and fraternal viewpoints, because they will guarantee progress in the strengthening of the CUT and in our endeavor to forge a broad political movement of Colombians for democracy and peace with social justice.

## 'Guerrilla Summit' Releases Political Declaration

*PA2009023189 (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish to Colombia 0046 GMT 20 Sep 89*

["Political declaration" of the first regional guerrilla summit of northwest Colombia; report "sent from Barranquilla"]

[Text] The first regional guerrilla summit of northwest Colombia has met at a time when the country—and specifically this area of Colombia—is enduring the most acute crisis in its history. We voice our strongest rejection to growing imperialist intervention—open meddling in the form of the most outrageous logistic and economic support. This includes sending advisers, who actually seek to enforce the imperialist domination strategy designed by the George Bush government.

We also reject the subservient attitude of the Colombian Government in the face of the imminent violation of our sovereignty, and we call on the people to confront the dangerous imperialist threat of a direct invasion of our territory, using Panama as a launching base for the yankee Marines.

The narcotics traffickers, allies of the most reactionary sectors of the bourgeoisie and the state, are on an offensive against the representatives of the people's revolutionary interests, and even against groups inside the bourgeoisie itself that are opposed to their political and economic interests.

This fascist process is that of currently engaging in new activities when the shady organizations of rightist assassins have decided to bring out in the open their political party, MORENA [National Renewal Movement], that not only boasts about its fascist ideology, but also about most antidemocratic and anticommunist feelings. This area of northwestern Colombia is caught in the midst of this problem. In Cordoba Department alone, the narcotics traffickers have purchased 500,000 hectares of land, and with the support of the fascist militarism, they are trying to create a social base for their anti-people's project. The presence in that area of paid assassins—financed by the drug traffickers and large landholders, armed and trained by the Army—are the most serious threat to the development of the people's struggle and organization. We call on our people to increase in their hearts a live anti-yankee and anti-imperialist sentiment that will translate into increasing their struggle and organization against this imminent threat.

Long live the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board! No to yankee intervention!
[Signed] For the the Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation, (Leopoldo Gonzalez); for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] Fronts numbers 5, 18, 34, 35, and 36; for the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] the (Francisco Barmiza), (Jesus Maria Alzate), Bernardo Franco, and (Jairo de Jesus Salva) Fronts.

## Peru

### Group of Eight 'Summit' Planned for 11-13 Oct

*PY1909145189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0030 GMT 18 Sep 89*

[Text] Lima, 18 Sep (EFE)—An official spokesman reported today that the presidents of the "Group of Eight" countries will meet in Peru between 11 and 13 October to hold the third "summit" of the so-called "permanent mechanism for political consultation and coordination."

President Press Secretary Carlos Guillen Bringas stated that the meeting of the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela will take place in Ica, in the middle of the desert, some 300 km south of Lima.

Initially Panama was a member of the "Group of Eight," which originated from the "Contadora" and the "Contadora Support" groups, but Panama was then suspended because of its internal political situation.

The seven presidents will hold their meetings in a cottage hotel located near Ica, which is a town of some 150,000 inhabitants and which is capital of the Ica Department.

The Peruvian presidential spokesman has stated that 3 days before the Ica presidential "summit," the foreign ministers of the seven countries will hold a preparatory meeting in Trujillo, 570 km north of Lima.

The presidents of the "Group of Eight" met for the first time in Acapulco (Mexico) in 1987, and for the second time in Punta del Este (Uruguay), in October 1988.

### CAF Grants $40 Million Credit for Exports

*PY1909133189 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] The Andean Development Corporation, CAF, has granted a $40-million line of credit to Peru to support the export sector. The credit will be administered by the Financial Development Corporation, COFIDE.

According to CAF, the objective of the credit is to develop the export potential of private companies in the industrial, mining, and manufacturing sectors.

### Ayacucho Mayor Murdered Following Threats

*PY2009014689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0028 GMT 20 Sep 89*

[Excerpt] Ayacucho (Peru), 19 Sep (EFE)—Fermin Azparrent, the 59-year-old mayor of Ayacucho, was shot dead today by three youths who had broken into his residence.

Azparrent's relatives told EFE that the attacks occurred in the yard of the residence. According to witnesses, the attackers, who unexpectedly entered the yard, had Indian features.

Azparrent had time and again reported that he received death threats from the Maoist Shining Path group, and from the paramilitary Rodrigo Franco Commando (CRF), both of which operate in Ayacucho.

Following a recent dynamite attack on his residence, Azparrent spent a long time in Lima and blamed the attack on paramilitary groups.

Witnesses said the three unmasked attackers entered Azparrent's yard shouting "Fermin, Fermin." As soon as they found Azparrent, the only armed terrorist shot him three times in the head.

After murdering Azparrent, the attackers fled through the back door without shouting any slogan or leaving any message that would reveal their ideological leaning. [passage omitted]

### Curfew Declared

*PY2009042089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Sep 89*

[Excerpt] Ayacucho (Peru), 19 Sep (EFE)—The military officials of Ayacucho today decreed an indefinite curfew following the murder of Ayacucho Mayor Fermin Azparrent.

In a communique, the Military-Political Command (the main authority in this southeastern Peruvian region) announced that the curfew will be in force from 2100 to 0600 local time (0200-1100 GMT) in the departments of Ayacucho and Huancavelica.

The communique says that this measure is designed "to provide security to the people and to arrest the subversive criminals who perpetrated this nefarious, cowardly murder."

Regional officials have also ordered a permanent patrol, and the police were carrying out mass arrests in this region, which has been under emergency measures and military control for 7 years.

Mayor Azparrent was 59 years old and was elected in the 1986 municipal elections as candidate of the United Left (IU), a coalition of Socialist and Communist parties. He was murdered today in his residence with three shots in the head by three unmasked youths. [passage omitted]

## Venezuela

### Authorities Deny Arrest of Colombian Drug Lord

*PA1909164589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1538 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Caracas, 19 Sep (AFP)—Venezuelan police denied today that a suspected drug trafficker captured on the southwestern border with Colombia is Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias El Mexicano, one of the top drug traffickers in Colombia.

The suspect—who aroused suspicion when he suddenly bought several properties in Tachira State on the border with the Colombian Department of Norte de Santander—apparently looks like Rodriguez Gacha. He carried documents in the name of Alirio Quintero Alvarez, age 47.

Also arrested and brought to Caracas with Quintero was Zuliva Pena Lara, 24, believed to be his mistress.

A police spokesman told AFP that investigations have ruled out the possibility that the suspect might be Rodriguez Gacha, although efforts are under way to determine if his documents and property are in order legally.

### * Perez Discusses Deterioration of Hospitals

*33480260a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 23 Jul 89 p D1*

[Excerpt] President Carlos Andres Perez has warned that the situation in public services, particularly health care, is far more acute than just a decline in wages, according to a report presented to him by a presidential committee named to look into the hospital question.

The president was speaking yesterday at Los Caracas Resort Civic Health Center, where he closed the Eighth Convention of the Federation of Health and Social Security Workers (Fetrasalud).

"The situation in our hospitals is dramatic, but I am not going to cover it up. We are going to tell the truth and we will solve the problem by creating the proper structural, administrative, and organizational conditions to keep a stricken service going."

The president said that the committee report reveals that some 16 percent of the physical plant is worn out, while another 16 percent requires repair. Some 53 percent of all electric maintenance equipment is totally out of service, while 30 percent is operating with problems, and only 8 percent is in good condition. Some 12 percent of all steam equipment is out of operation, 52 percent is experiencing problems and 6 percent is in good repair. At the same time, 11 percent of all air conditioning equipment is out of service, 51 percent needs repair and only 8 percent is in good operating condition. Some 11 percent of all electrical equipment is not in use. Finally, 90 percent of hospital maintenance personnel are not properly trained.

President Perez said he would describe the situation with a phrase he himself popularized: "Let's play clean with Venezuela." He added that this deterioration in public services was probably what led to the people's demonstrations of 27 and 28 February.

Referring to the conflict with Social Security and physicians in particular, Perez explained that physicians had presented a contract proposal which the government found impossible to accept. The situation had consequently been submitted for arbitration, as a result of which some of the demands were met and the situation was handled responsibly in terms of both physicians and the Social Security Institute.

He emphasized that Social Security pensions would now be raised to 2,000 bolivares, while workers' and employers' contributions to the Institute would be increased. [passage omitted]

## * Antonio Rios on Challenges of CTV Leadership

*33480260c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish*
*23 Jul 89 p D2*

[EL NACIONAL interview with Antonio Rios, CTV president, by Alfredo Pena; date, place not given]

[Text] [EL NACIONAL] You are taking over the presidency of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] at a time of crisis and social struggle. After the trade union movement staged the general strike on 18 May, you replaced Juan Jose Delpino, a seasoned, veteran labor leader who enjoyed great prestige. Will the CTV put a brake on or push its struggles under your leadership?

[Rios] I am perfectly aware of the challenge that awaits me. I am assuming the presidency of the CTV at a time when my country is going through one of the most difficult crises of the century. I also know that taking over a post so brilliantly held by my comrade Juan Jose Delpino is a great challenge, but I am ready to discharge my responsibilities. The social impact of the economic and financial crisis has launched civil society on a movement in which the working class plays a very important role. I have no reason to make announcements about strikes and work stoppages, but I have to say that strikes and work stoppages are instruments in the legitimate struggle of the trade union movement. Exercising democracy presumes rights for all sectors, and the working class has no reason, especially in a time of crisis, to abdicate its rights. By nature and conviction, I believe in dialogue, but I do not duck confrontation when all conciliatory paths have been exhausted. Nor are we talking about armed, violent confrontation here, because such confrontations generally occur under tyrannical regimes where there is no means or possibility of channeling social protest along peaceful, democratic paths. But there will be strikes and civic protests whenever the ruling classes are bent on denying workers their right to live with dignity and decency. Venezuelan society, which is accustomed to the tranquillity gained by the oil boom, will have to get used to living with that type of struggle.

[EL NACIONAL] But do you believe that in a crisis situation, one can talk of strikes and work stoppages?

[Rios] The most important strikes have taken place in the world's most highly developed countries, in the oldest, most solid democracies in the United States and Europe, precisely at times of economic crisis. Workers in the north, the vanguard of science, technology, and production, continue to strike whenever it is required by their fight to defend their interests. There is an attempt to argue, falsely and deceptively, that strikes promoted by the organized labor movement necessarily lead to underdevelopment. That is not true. Social peace, imposed without quarter by dictatorships in Central America, the Caribbean, and other regions of the continent, has in fact led to stagnation in all areas. At the same time, we see that Europe, the United States, and Japan, where striking is not a crime that frightens anyone, have achieved the greatest progress of this century. Democracy means debate and social struggle. Only societies open to competition and the discussion of ideas can make progress without trauma and violence, especially at a time when the world is now witnessing the opening up of the Soviet Union and nations in its orbit. We workers will resort to strikes whenever the intransigence of management and the insensitivity of the powerful try to place the entire burden of the crisis on the shoulders of those who have the very least, those who suffer the most and need the most. We workers lack the political power, military power, and economic power which other sectors have in excess. The only instrument of struggle we have, the only means of exerting pressure as a last resort, is the strike. We are not strike fanatics, as we have demonstrated over the past 31 years of continuous democracy. But one has but to look at the unemployment figures, the drop in consumption, and the rate of inflation to see that it is the vast majorities that have to bear the burden of the crisis. The facts reveal that economic might is concentrated in a few hands, the hands of the monopolies and oligopolies.

### Package

[EL NACIONAL] The CTV, led by Juan Jose Delpino, staged the strike on 18 May to protest the economic package. That package is still intact. Will the CTV wage more strikes for the same purpose?

[Rios] I voted for that strike. The trade union bureau gave it its support. The strike took place against the wishes of those who thought the CTV had lost its ability to call one. There was a need to mobilize the workers movement, but we did so and shall continue to do so whenever necessary. We continue to demand a redrafting of that policy which, as I said, has mainly hurt workers. We are seeing how small and medium-size businesses are going under at the same time that big monopolies are growing stronger. We have seen that from the very beginning. We have always fought formulas of the IMF that have failed in all Third World countries. The government nevertheless moves ahead with its program.

[EL NACIONAL] What kind of redrafting of policy is being demanded by the labor movement?

[Rios] Guaranteeing a social safety net making it possible to attenuate the sacrifice being made by workers so that the policy can be successful. The policy will have to be amended so that if indeed it is successful, the workers may share in the benefits.

[EL NACIONAL] Why can it be successful here?

[Rios] Because Venezuela is different. The government has a great deal of power and controls 70 percent of the economy, which is not true of other countries on the continent. This enables us to use foreign exchange as an

instrument of development and generate results that are different from those obtained by other nations that have applied the same policy.

[EL NACIONAL] To date, those results are: accumulated inflation of 57 percent so far this year, a 50-percent drop in consumption, and interest that has climbed to over 50 percent. Crime, the high cost of living, and unemployment are devastating the population.

[Rios] The same results of that policy can be seen in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Central America, and the Caribbean. We shall see if what the government technocrats say when they advance the feature of a powerful government yields positive effects for Venezuela. The CTV has to follow that policy and wait until December to draw up a balance sheet. If it does not see those different results promised by the government, then we shall propose a radical change in that economic policy.

**Breaking With the IMF**

[EL NACIONAL] In that case, the government will have to break with the Monetary Fund, which has dictated that policy.

[Rios] We shall have no other alternative. Countries will have to form a bloc to discuss the problem of the debt. The banks have been successful in imposing their solution of talking with each debtor separately. The banks and powerful countries maintain a single bloc facing Latin American debtors. All Third World debtors should form a single bloc to confront creditors and make it possible to achieve agreements leading to new refinancing and not obstruct the development of our economies, as has been the case up to now. Otherwise, our future will be forever tied to chronic dependency without any possibility of development. I think positive steps have been taken with the idea of achieving collective rather than individual agreements. I repeat that the debt has to be negotiated as a bloc, but as a political rather than an economic problem.

**Increase in Public Spending**

[EL NACIONAL] Eddo Polesel, president of Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], observed at the Forum Monday that the government had increased public spending and backing the government as the fundamental element in the economic takeoff, thereby contradicting the original principles of the program which assigned that role to private enterprise.

[Rios] The government must meet its obligations and this leads to increased public spending. But it is impossible for the government to shirk its responsibilities to the workers, especially in the area of services, without first creating the conditions so they may be provided by enterprises made up of entrepreneurs and workers.

[EL NACIONAL] The private sector observes that through the devaluation and other taxes, the government has collected 250 billion bolivares that have been turned over to the bureaucratic machine for regular spending, without taking the importance of investment spending into account.

[Rios] I do not doubt that there have been distortions. The government has to meet its obligations to its workers and raise the wages of civil servants, for which purpose it has earmarked some 30 billion bolivares. But it has also pleased entrepreneurs by allocating some 75 to 100 billion bolivares for payment of their letters of credit. That is the destination of the so-called "exchange profits." We are still a society and country subsidized by the government. No change has occurred.

[EL NACIONAL] Businessmen insist that the driving force of development has to be the private sector and they note that that transfer of vast resources to the bureaucratic machine and regular spending will cause more poverty.

[Rios] It will not cause more poverty. We are taking care of the most urgent social problems even though that money is not reproduced from the standpoint of profits produced by other economic activities. We are trying to make a break with that spendthrift past in which the greatest profit was received precisely by the powerful economic groups that are now protesting because the government's wealth is not being transferred to them. Rehabilitating the economy requires sacrifices by all sectors, not just the workers.

[EL NACIONAL] Fedecamaras claims that the scandalous increase in public spending has in no way helped Venezuela. They warn that the government is imitating the previous administration.

[Rios] I would not say it is imitating it, but it has not corrected it and on that we agree. The policy of increasing public spending in order to solve the wage problem has not been correct, but neither has the one that has given businessmen substantial resources to set up enterprises and new sources of jobs. What has happened? If the enterprise succeeded, they have enjoyed the profits, but if it failed, the government has absorbed the losses. If the policy of using public spending to maintain a staff of unproductive workers has failed, so has that of giving entrepreneurs money from the sale of oil to set up industries that ended up in the CVF [Venezuelan Corporation for Development] cemetery! They did not industrialize the country; rather, they "planted it" with assembly plants that for the most part went broke.

[EL NACIONAL] The private sector alleges that those who failed were not the entrepreneurs, but rather, politicians and their figureheads benefiting from CVF credits.

[Rios] That is what they claim, but they are not entirely correct. Here we have never had manufacturers, but

rather, importers. They may be right about some politicians benefiting from government subsidies. But many of the merchants so enthusiastic about the policy that Romulo Betancourt promoted in the early'60's also failed, just like the politicians who tried, directly or indirectly, to become entrepreneurs. The fact is that the industrial policy failed. We did not industrialize anything: what we did was bring nuts and screws to twist ourselves up in and now we are paying for it. That is why we are talking about industrial conversion. We have served notice to President Perez that we workers will not allow ourselves to be ignored.

**Basic Enterprises**

[EL NACIONAL] The president of Fedecamaras has claimed that it is not true that the constitution reserves basic enterprises exclusively for the government.

[Rios] That is an interpretation of the constitution, but no one here has placed that constitutional precept in doubt. That principle is closely related to our national identity. It was our liberator himself who said that all natural resources should belong to the government, to the Venezuelan people. Basic enterprises belong to the people and cannot be in private hands or any economic sector, however powerful it may be. It is possible that as one moves down the line, into areas complementing basic production, private interests may intervene if they have their own resources to do so. Workers have the same right to do so through co-management or self-management. I want to stress that this principle that basic enterprises have no owner and belong to the government is deeply rooted in the patriotic spirit of Venezuelans of all generations. Such is the conception of Simon Bolivar, as established by our constitution.

**Recadi and Politicians**

[EL NACIONAL] Entrepreneurs feel harassed and persecuted because arrest warrants arising out of the Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office] affair have been issued only for them, while no one dares to jail the politicians who invented and profited from Recadi.

[Rios] A minority took advantage of the positions they held and there were entrepreneurs who, seeking easy solutions, joined with public officials in corrupting it.

[EL NACIONAL] The judges did not issue arrest warrants for any political leader or any official of the previous administration.

[Rios] There must be reasons why this has not happened. We must all be concerned because there has not yet been any clarification of who is actually responsible. Furthermore, certain politicians use the media to accuse those not in their camp, thereby trying to lay claim to honesty that is not the property of anyone. Nor is it acceptable for judges to hand down justice through the media. This hurts institutions, starting with the Judicial Branch. Political parties should investigate and punish their members or leaders who have been guilty of illegal acts. Here they are trying to label everyone as corrupt so that the real guilty parties may hide.

[EL NACIONAL] Don't you think it is strange that there are businessmen in jail when not a single official from the previous administration is behind bars? The authors of Recadi have gone scot-free, without a mark on them.

[Rios] The government invented Recadi to handle foreign exchange, but we unfortunately do not know who took advantage of the situation.

[EL NACIONAL] There were people who warned President Lusinchi that Recadi was swindling and stealing from the nation. Juan Jose Delpino stated this in the media.

[Rios] Unfortunately, at the time Delpino said this, the investigations that are now taking place did not occur. People are going to jail without our knowing whether or not they are guilty and it is possible that the guilty parties remain free.

[EL NACIONAL] I repeat: Why are they punishing and jailing persons from only one sector?

[Rios] Because so far they have identified only one sector. I do not think the Judicial Branch will send the powerful to jail. If they were jailing a worker, I would say they are punishing him because he cannot defend himself, but if a judge ventures to issue an arrest warrant for someone powerful, he must have reasons for doing so.

[EL NACIONAL] Assuming there were persons from the private sector who committed crimes in Recadi, they could not have done so without the complicity of public officials at some level.

[Rios] I do not doubt that in the sector in charge of that office there were those guilty of getting rich illegally, in complicity with certain entrepreneurs, but I am referring to no one in particular.

[EL NACIONAL] Why at this point in the process are there no "fat cats" in jail?

[Rios] I ask myself that question every day and I am sure that all Venezuelan people are doing the same.

## * Ex-Finance Minister Discusses Recadi Scandal

*33480259a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 25 Jul 89 p D7*

[Interview with Hector Hurtado, former finance minister, by Agustin Beroes; date and place not given]

[Text] In the opinion of Hector Hurtado, the former minister of finance, the time has come to speak out. Since the investigations into the irregular preferential allocation of dollars by the National Preferential Exchange Office (Recadi), Lusinchi, a former minister, has preferred to avoid any kind of contact with the press, the investigative team of EL NACIONAL in particular.

Except that because he had no choice, he appeared before Judge La Riva first and then before the recently established Higher Security Court to give testimony. Both court jurisdictions instructed him not to leave the country.

[EL NACIONAL] Why are you making a statement to the press now?

[Hurtado] The investigations of the so-called Recadi case have been pursued on the basis of an overall concept which is entirely biased, presupposing, first of all, that there were irregularities in the allocation of all of the preferential dollars used to pay for the imports made by the private sector during the 5-year period between 1984 and 1989. Secondly, as there can be no crimes without criminals, all of the officials responsible for the administration of the Preferential Exchange Office and all of the businessmen who accepted the preferential dollars are presumed guilty until they prove their innocence, thus distorting the classic principle in criminal procedure which presumes that the accused are innocent until proven guilty.

[EL NACIONAL] Do you feel responsability in connection with the charges which have been made?

[Hurtado] With the problem set forth in these terms, it was easy to create a halo of major responsibility around any one of the officials of the preceding government, especially those who, like myself, were ministers throughout that 5-year period, and even more particularly, minister of finance for the last 15 months. Thus irregularities, fraud, and misuse of influence have been attributed not only to me, but also to family members, friends, and colleagues of long standing.

[EL NACIONAL] Do you believe that you are being blamed because certain interests were affected during the several periods you were minister of economy?

[Hurtado] It would be well to note that I headed the Cordiplan [Office of Coordination and Planning] for a decade, during the Romulo Betancourt and Raul Leoni governments, and I served as minister of finance and with the Venezuelan Investment Fund during the earlier 5-year term of Carlos Andres Perez. Naturally, in serving in high public office for such a long time, one who acts responsibly is forced to deny applications and impose administrative penalties which adversely affect some interests, so that the desire of some of those affected by my decisions to regard this as a timely opportunity to "settle accounts" cannot have failed to be a factor in this case.

**Statement Risky**

[EL NACIONAL] Why have you been unwilling to defend yourself publicly?

[Hurtado] Because of the general nature and multiplicity of the accusations made against me, it was difficult to counter them, since the only appropriate response was to declare them false. But because they were not made specific, it was impossible to refute them point by point. Under these circumstances, it was dangerous for me to be willing to make statements to the media, because a large number of the general charges would have seemed to have been left unanswered.

[EL NACIONAL] And has the situation changed for you now?

[Hurtado] Now the situation has changed, fortunately—and the use of this word might make it seem that I have a masochistic tendency. Fortunately, I repeat, things have changed. Now I have been accused by Mr. Tablante, along with other comrades in the government, because I served on the Imports Commission established by Decree No 1546 dated 7 June 1987, which established a quota of $8.243 billion in 1988 for the issuance of import permits to the private sector, while according to Tablante, authorization was issued for more than $14 billion, which he claims constituted a criminal violation of the Security Law.

[EL NACIONAL] Do you believe that Tablante's charge has no basis? He has said that you encouraged Edgalia Bastardo to provide foreign exchange in excess of the budget provisions, and he has presented an official memorandum to this effect as evidence. And he has also charged that you and your vice minister, Eglee Iturbe, showed negligence in approving foreign exchange for nonexistent enterprises, such as those of the Chinese who were taken into protective custody.

[Hurtado] In the charges made, there are serious errors of law, apart from the errors of fact. In this connection it will suffice to mention the most important, which is the confusion an attempt is being made to create between the quota established by the commission for granting authorizations to the private sector, and the National Foreign Exchange Budget which is approved by the Congress. But let us set aside these legal aspects, which, properly speaking, should be taken before the court, and let us speak of facts. Moreover, it is things of this latter sort which ordinary people understand, for in their view legal arguments seem to be a kind of refuge used to escape responsibility.

**Atmosphere of Fraud**

[EL NACIONAL] What is your view of the Recadi scandal?

[Hurtado] A great atmosphere of national fraud has been created. The first thing that has been lost to sight is that the imports nationalized during the year are the country's imports. The second fact which has been overlooked is that the figures in the permits or authorizations for imports in a given year cannot be accurate and they cannot be balanced out, particularly with the payments for these imports.

[EL NACIONAL] Why is this impossible?

[Hurtado] There is a lag between the time foreign exchange allocations are authorized and the time when the import is effected, and then the time when a certain system providing for payment 6 months after the import is made comes into play. If an import authorization involved a 6-month period, and in some cases this could be extended, it might simply happen, and on many occasions it does, that payment is made more than a year after the authorization to import is issued. This means that the payments will inevitably occur even in the year after the year following the initiation of the operation.

[EL NACIONAL] Dr Hurtado, look....

[Hurtado] Excuse me, but this was the origin of the first broadside of accusations. Secondly, it is clear that in a system like the Recadi, which was established in 1983—although an effort has even been made to say here that this was a situation established during the Lusinchi administration—this system presumed partial foreign exchange control, and, of course, when controls are established, they must be administered. On the other hand, there was a free dollar market, with a price much higher than that of the controlled dollar, and so then the Recadi was a system which could be utilized by clever people with contacts abroad who tried to arrange irregular operations. During the period of exchange control in the 1960s, as well, there were instances in which businessmen attempted fraud.

[EL NACIONAL] As minister of finance, did you observe irregularities?

[Hurtado] There were more than 80 cases reported to the courts of the Republic throughout the entire last constitutional term. They were reported by the Ministry of Finance and by the Central Bank of Venezuela. Among other cases, there was that involving La Paila, wherein the transmitting bank was the Industrial Bank of Venezuela. We tried to provide the system (Recadi) with maximum security and to ensure that the procedures were honest. It should be noted that the importer did not deal directly with the Recadi, but applied through a commercial bank. In other words, the importer was a client of the bank, which in many cases provided and financed a letter of credit for him.

[EL NACIONAL] But this was as of a later date....

[Hurtado] How could it be presumed that we were dealing with a phantom enterprise? No way. Moreover, by the fourth year, what had begun as a phantom enterprise initially had already become a company with a historical record of imports. It was very difficult to refuse to authorize imports. In 1988 we tried to deny authorization for preferential dollars for new commercial enterprises, for example.

**Extebandes Unaffected**

[EL NACIONAL] You are president of an international bank, Extebandes, and you have been implicated and summoned to appear before a court of the first instance with jurisdiction in security matters, and now the higher court. How will you defend yourself?

[Hurtado] Just as is happening to the Argentine minister of economy, as well. These are the vicissitudes of politics. The international image of the bank of which I am president will not be affected by this circumstance, because they understand the politics of all the countries.

[EL NACIONAL] From your response, one might conclude that you think that the origin and purposes of the Recadi scandal are political.

[Hurtado] Obviously. The political intent in this whole scandal is to destroy an entire 5-year administration, just as the administration of President Jaime Lusinchi was destroyed. In that period, the country was recovering from the crisis of economic paralysis experienced between 1979 and 1983. I want to cite an example. When we left the first Carlos Andres Perez government, there were 30,000 workers in the textile industry. When I became minister of development in 1984, I found that there were 9,000, and when we left, at the end of Jaime Lusinchi's term, there were 28,000 workers. At the end of 1988, the increase in the GNP was 5 percent. What is being sought is to destroy the image of a policy which served, very simply, to bring about economic recovery at a time when we had a serious inherited problem with the foreign debt payment.

[EL NACIONAL] At the beginning of this new Perez government, he and a number of his ministers talked about Lusinchi's economic policy as if they represented the COPEI [Social Christian Party], in particular with regard to the foreign debt.

[Hurtado] Where this is concerned, it will be a long, drawn-out affair, and it will not be resolved today.

**Authorization Granted**

[EL NACIONAL] You were specifically mentioned in connection with the Recadi case, but also with regard to your relationship with a number of subordinates. For example, there is the official memorandum you sent to Edgalia Bastardo telling him to authorize foreign exchange without reference to the budgetary situation.

[Hurtado] Thus far, I have not been questioned by the Higher Security Court about this. Within the overall quota for import authorizations I had the authority to establish quotas for the enterprises, and here I did not establish quotas for any. Now, for the replacement parts enterprises, I did say give it to them, although the quota was exhausted, and there is no responsibility to be assigned here.

[EL NACIONAL] But without regard to the budgetary situation, as the official memorandum to Recadi director Edgalia Bastardo de Leandro said?

[Hurtado] "Budgetary" was a common way of describing things. In reality, these were new quotas which had been

assigned to the replacement parts companies. As they had used up their foreign exchange, give it to them then, was what I ordered.

[EL NACIONAL] What is your view of the suicide attempt by your friend Hector Meneses? In the letter he left, you are mentioned in connection with the manipulation of the records of the Imports Commission, and you were the president of that commission created by Decree 1546.

[Hurtado] It was a matter of a moment of weakness, of fear of facing up to this scandal which had occurred. I dealt with it by preferring to stay alive and in peace. I have no idea to what manipulations he was referring. I do not know.

[EL NACIONAL] What criteria were used by the Imports Commission in making decisions?

[Hurtado] The commission was supposed to establish policies. It recommended the budgets for the public bodies, which were to be referred to the Council of Ministers, and, on the basis of the decree which established it, it could reserve for itself the right to approve certain import authorizations, something the Recadi could not do without our endorsement, based on the amounts involved. In all, the commission met 59 times, a few of them during the administration of Manuel Azpurua, and the majority of them while I was in charge. There were innumerable decisions made by this commission having to do first with ensuring the country's supplies, and second, with sustaining the industrial growth which followed. But also, we counted heavily on authorizing foreign exchange without such great increases in prices on the consumer level.

[EL NACIONAL] Can you give us an example?

[Hurtado] The case of Argentine wheat. The Argentine wheat shipments were much larger than the shipments of wheat from the United States, and in addition, the Argentine wheat was a little cheaper than the wheat from North America.

[EL NACIONAL] But the more expensive wheat was purchased here, and the domestic prices of pasta and bread went up.

[Hurtado] Yes. We had to increase the foreign exchange allocations for the Argentine wheat shipments, but the problem was that Argentina did not sell us any wheat in 1988 because it sold it to other consumers, and we had to turn to the United States and Canada since these were more certain markets.

**Meeting With Meneses**

[EL NACIONAL] Returning to Meneses, we are told that he and some of his other officials met with you here a few days before he made his fatal decision. What was this meeting about?

[Hurtado] He met with me and drafted a part of the explanation I delivered to the Congress about the Recadi case. There were some memoranda that we clarified later at my office at the Extebandes. As he had been involved in the administration of the Recadi, he had all of the details about the paper work, procedures. Furthermore, the day preceding the suicide attempt, we dined together at La Mansion so that I was the person most surprised by his action the following day.

[EL NACIONAL] After the suicide attempt, you also met with a group of former finance officials in the office of the present minister, Eglee Iturbe de Blanco. What was the purpose of this other meeting? They tell me that some documents were signed there and that some members of the Imports Commission, for example Eduardo Mayobre and Eglee Iturbe, refused to sign.

[Hurtado] I went to the Ministry of Finance several times concerning business which had to do with the Extebandes. I did indeed go there, and so did all of the officials, to complete the signing of some of the minutes of the Imports Commission, which had been handwritten. That is all.

[EL NACIONAL] Are you saying that you have been meeting regularly with your former colleagues?

[Hurtado] Of course. Naturally, since they have accused us, we must meet, because they are saying everything and using everything against us, and we hope this is the end of it.

[EL NACIONAL] How do you expect the Recadi case to end?

[Hurtado] It will be proved that there were some irregularities involving businessmen. In my view, a businessman is a person who has a company and as such, requests preferential dollars. He may commit fraud, but he is a businessman. For something to go wrong here, there would have to be complicity on the part of an official who certified an import.

[EL NACIONAL] What about the government officials?

[Hurtado] There may be some charges against customs verification officers. This might occur. I can only answer for myself.

[EL NACIONAL] It has been said that although the allocation established was a little over $8.2 billion, imports came to a total of more than $11.5 billion, and that this difference of more than $3 billion went to phantom enterprises given preference by officials in the preceding government, including yourself. What have you to say about this?

[Hurtado] The origin of this black tale lies in the confusion which developed, inexplicably, in the mind of a business leader at the beginning of this year, and because of the direction the investigations of the businessmen have taken, there must be some sense of unease. Let us explain. For the imports of the private sector, three separate periods can be distinguished, with a different

figure corresponding to each one. First of all, there is the amount of the authorizations granted. They were valid for 6 months and could be extended, and their full or partial use thus led to imports at a later date. Secondly, there was the amount of the imports actually made. And, finally, there were the payments for the imports, which for the most part were made within 6 months after the imports were effected. Thus in 1988, the total for the authorizations issued was $8.088 billion, the total for imports effected was $8.855 billion, which also included imports based on authorizations issued in 1987, and finally, the total payment came to $7.14 billion.

[EL NACIONAL] Was it one of Carlos Andrés Perez' ministers or a businessman who cited the $11.5 billion figure?

[Hurtado] The $11.581 billion figure for 1989 imports quoted by a business leader also includes $2.728 billion for imports by the public sector, for which no authorizations are required, while the payments made in this connection came to $2.798 billion. It should be explained, moreover, that the import total of $11.581 billion shown in our foreign trade statistics is expressed in FOB terms. Payments, on the contrary, are quoted CIF, although not all of the import departments are paid in preferential dollars.

**A Confusion of Figures**

[EL NACIONAL] What are the real figures, according to Hector Hurtado?

[Hurtado] The commission approved an overall allocation of $8.226 billion for 1988, which would include the authorizations for raw materials, farm replacement parts products, transportation equipment, and the imports of the Margarita Free Port, the Paraguana Industrial Zone, the Basic Supplies for Import Program (PIBE), Liquors, and a special allocation of $40 billion for spare parts for heavy construction enterprises. The allocation did not cover capital goods. Now then, all of the authorizations issued by the General Sectorial Imports Office came to only $8.088 billion, including $1.225 billion for capital goods, this last sum previously authorized by the Imports Commission.

[EL NACIONAL] What did your figures have to do with the decline in international reserves?

[Hurtado] The drop in the reserves was not solely the result of imports, for which the average in the 5-year period between 1984 and 1989 was far below the imports in 1982, despite the fact that the economy had seen substantial growth, especially in the domestic sectors. Payments on the public and private foreign debt, including interest, accounted for more than $5 billion, or a total of $25 billion. Where the public foreign debt is concerned, total payments of $6.438 billion were made on principal. This figure alone exceeds by some $2 billion the drop of $4.478 billion in the international reserves of the Central Bank during the 5-year period.

## * Ibanez Responds to Criticism, Accusations

*33480279b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 9 Aug 89 p D1*

[Text] In a second message sent to the news media, Blanca Ibanez Pina asserts: "Those conspiring to destabilize the system, the false converts who have been deceiving many people, now crazed since the incidents in February, are the same ones who are trying to make me a victim of a kind of revolutionary trial, calling for my arrest without due process and under the threat of not being tried by my natural judges."

In her message, former President Jaime Lusinchi's private secretary, who traveled to Miami about 2 weeks ago, considers this a suitable time to give a response to the charges made against her publicly and in the courts by Congressmen Carlos Tablante and Enrique Ochoa Antich (of MAS-MIR [Movement Toward Socialism-Movement of the Revolutionary Left]), and Douglas Dager (of COPEI [Social Christian Party]), the most important parts of which we have excerpted, as follows:

**'Recadi'**

Deputies Tablante and Dager attempted to implicate me in the Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office] affair, in which I had no part, by resorting to the expedient of some unimportant letters sent to the Finance Ministry or directly to the director of Recadi: letters of complaint sent to the Presidency of the Republic by certain citizens or business firms whose requests had not been properly dealt with. Fulfilling my constitutional obligation, I limited myself to referring to the authorized office petitions or complaints sent to the president of the Republic. The wording used in all instances was the same that a standard methodology had stipulated for the processing of such correspondence.

**'John Paul II'**

The John Paul II housing development was designed, executed, and supervised by the Simon Bolivar Center [CSB], an autonomous state entity with which the private secretary to the Presidency of the Republic never had any connection. All the contracts that this development entailed were granted by the institution using its authority, and some of them were charged to the citizen president of the Republic, based on a legal regulation. These bills (like those of all the ministers) were submitted directly to the chief executive by the heads of the various offices. From all those contracts, the Ochoa-Dager pair picked out the contract awarded to the Los Andes Construction Company owned by Mr Miguel Fazzolari and his sons, for the simple reason that my son, Carlos Alfredo, is married to Laura Fazzolari, who is, in turn, Miguel Fazzolari's daughter. There is nothing strange about that contract from the standpoint of its granting, execution, prices, and proper fulfillment. The gentlemen making the charges omit any reference to the hundreds of contracts granted to scores of large, medium, and small companies operating there. These

irresponsible persons were attempting to flavor the scandal with the Ibanez ingredient, but without offering a single shred of evidence or a clue of anything irregular that would implicate me, or the slightest indication of harm inflicted on the public patrimony. As for the provision of residential apartments, no entity other than the CSB, its subsidiary companies, or banking establishments participated in the negotiations for them. The apartments were provided only by the CSB, including a financial transaction with a private savings and loan entity. My sons made an application which they did not implement, because their study plans and professional practice had changed. This did not hold true, for example, in the case of Deputy Tablante's application, which was completed up to the point of possession. I don't know whether he has more than one dwelling now.

**'Accounts Abroad'**

This is the charge brought against me that has had the greatest impact, and the one most maliciously contrived. Of course, it carries with it a special boomerang effect, inasmuch as Mr Tablante's irresponsible boldness prompted him to dare clash with the respectability of the U.S. banking system and the moral and legal force that a 'statement made under oath' has in the United States.

Mr Tablante has claimed that I have an account in the North Ridge Bank in Fort Lauderdale, in the U.S. state of Florida, which was opened in 1982 with the sum of $3.7 million, and which reached the enormous amount of $6.1 million in 1989. He also stated that I had shares in a group of companies whose names he noted in his charge, requesting the summoning of Mrs Sheila Desrosiers, a representative of an auditing firm of the aforementioned bank, and also seeking information from certain U.S. Government agencies.

Now then, this assertion made by Mr Tablante and his assistant, Esculpi, is a monstrous invention not only revealing his malice but also showing him to be an ignoramus. The facts are the following: In December 1982, at the beginning of the election campaign of the then candidate Jaime Lusinchi, in order to cover any expense that might be incurred abroad, an account was set up in my name in the initial amount of $40,000, which increased to $58,388 with two small deposits and the interest earned. The amount of that account in bolivares was relatively small for those days. But the important point is that it was never mobilized and on 19 December 1983, only 15 days after Jaime Lusinchi's electoral victory, when he, of course, had not yet taken over the government, that account was closed out and its balance returned to the electoral funds of the candidate's office. Neither before 1982 nor after December 1983 has any Blanca Ibanez account existed, and anything claimed to the contrary is an invention. This was attested to, under oath, by Mr Peter McCormack, president of the North Ridge Bank.

Tablante also charges the existence, in the same North Ridge Bank, of an account allegedly opened on 1 August 1987 by my son, Carlos Alfredo Garcia Ibanez, with the enormous sum of $749,552. The fact is that my son Carlos Alfredo decided to go to the United States to take a post-graduate course related to his legal profession, for which he is continuing his regular English language studies, as is his wife, Laura. In fact, my son Carlos Alfredo opened an account in the aforementioned bank on 1 March 1989, with an initial deposit of $44,041.

The source of this money, purchased by my son and his wife on the free exchange market in Venezuela, is completely legitimate and can be demonstrated with documentation. The figures and dates cited by Tablante are false.

But in addition, both Mr McCormack and Mrs Desrosiers (whose testimony was requested by Tablante) attested under oath, which is sacred and all-important in the United States, that Blanca Ibanez has not had, and does not currently have a share in any of the aforementioned companies.

**Embezzlement at the Racetrack**

Deputy Douglas Dager, who is by no means careful about his private and public behavior, has done his best to compete with Talante for the lead in this insane slander race. And he sought notoriety by contributing to the ignoble effort to destroy a woman whom he presumes to be trapped and defenseless. Dager's cowardice set its sights on the National Racetrack Institute [INH] which, by law, acts as a charitable institution, concurrently with that of promoting horse racing and wholesome recreation for the people in specific areas. Within the context of that plan of activities, the national government attempted to optimize the use of those funds from the INH surplus. For this purpose, the private secretary to the Presidency of the Republic submitted for the consideration of the National Racetrack Institute a group of petitions that had arrived there during the 5-year constitutional term. There was never any recourse to the expedient of donations that were not duly justified for a specific purpose and previously verified. All the aforementioned petitions were processed by the INH technical, medical, and social departments, and after that stringent check of their justification and cost, and of the available funds, they were submitted to the INH Board of Directors and were either approved or rejected.

**Jose Ibanez Again**

Ever since I gained the use of reason, this gentleman, who depicts himself as my brother but has never acted as such, has done his best to harm me. And he has done me much harm, because all my life he has tried to put me in his service, which I have always refused. Fortunately, I have the evidence that, on several occasions, I had to contact public officials, news media directors, and even the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] director, in writing, to alert them to this gentleman's activities. It would merely be a matter of certain publishers and directors consulting their records. It is not true that he visited any office where I worked, or that he knew Dr Lusinchi by

sight or had dealings with him. I never allowed him to come, and that is precisely why he hates me.

**I Am Threatened**

In short, this convergence of factors has created an artificial climate in which the only talk is about guilty persons and in which a sound, unprejudiced trial would be inconceivable. As for myself, I can say that I feel threatened with not being tried by my natural judges, those on whom it is incumbent, in my specific case, to investigate the charges brought against me in a sordid conspiracy by Carlos Tablante and Douglas Dager. There is bold talk of a warrant for my arrest without due process, and without any serious evidence provided against me. My children and anyone who is a friend of mine are being slandered.

The important thing in my case is that the climate is becoming rarefied and they will not leave me in peace until they see me in jail, as if I had been tried by a revolutionary tribunal.

## * Inadequate Policies Increase Health Risks

*33480279a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish*
*12 Aug 89 p C1*

[Text] The resurgence of fatal diseases that had ostensibly disappeared from official statistics, fear of another outbreak of epidemics forgotten in most people's memories, and the vulnerability of children and adults to illness after enjoying a juicy mouthful of fast food are just some of the reasons that prompted the members of the National Association of Public Health Inspectors to prepare a report and submit it to the National Congress.

In fact, after having rambled on with abstract, untargeted charges, health inspectors decided to formalize their disagreement with the health policy currently being challenged, and to express it to the health commissions of the Chambers of Deputies and Senators.

Now they hope that, within a few days, both commissions will open a congressional debate on the situation as depicted by health technicians and that solutions and recommendations will be put forth simultaneously.

**The Report**

Vladimir Lara, general secretary of the Health Inspectors Association, submitted a copy of the document while at the same time explaining the need for his colleagues to present an account different from the official one.

Based on this rule, they prepared 13 pages containing information as important as it is terrifying, in view of the figures and descriptions.

At the beginning of the document they explain that the health system is divided into two major areas: remedial and preventive. Nearly 90 percent of the health inspectors are responsible for and act decisively in the second area: In other words, they are charged with controlling the environmental factors affecting humans and vice versa.

To be more specific, they detail the programs in which their activity is carried out: food hygiene, control of sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, epidemiology, health statistics, animal parasitic diseases, dermatology, yellow fever, rural housing, rural waterworks, occupational hygiene, Chagas disease control, malaria, intestinal parasitosis, and others.

Then they add that much of the deterioration currently being confronted by health is due to the erroneous approach that has always been applied to it. In other words, greater significance and more resources are allocated to remedial services, to the detriment of preventive activities and health promotion. Importance is thereby detracted from such critical factors in the population's quality of life as: nutrition, education of the individual, and improvement of the environment.

The statistics speak for themselves, since less than 4 percent of the budget allocated to the health sector is earmarked for preventive activities and health promotion. This has caused an increase in spending in the remedial sector and greater neglect of prevention.

Next, they explain the recurrence of deadly diseases that had been eliminated or controlled, and the fear that they will turn into epidemics that will ultimately affect the unprotected sectors even more, as well as the most helpless: children.

Health inspectors should be the professionals responsible for dealing with the aforementioned situation, but our country has less than 2,000 even though the World Health Organization has advised that the most suitable number would be 4,000.

Moreover, according to the inspectors no incentives have been established either for their work or for public services. These professionals are also denied the right to attend training and specialization courses that others—in equally responsible positions—are receiving.

**Food Hygiene**

This service has 508 inspectors distributed throughout the national territory. It must cover 4,000 food industries; 200,000 establishments in which food is sold, prepared, or stored; 653 slaughterhouses; 400 markets; and the entire gamut of food stands and street vendors.

Each and every one of these establishments must be covered by the health inspector, who plays the role of a watchman to see that there is no food contamination and that the activities in them are carried out with the greatest precaution to comply with sanitary regulations.

But the inspectors can achieve very little of the foregoing if the country lacks a national health information and education program aimed at guiding the consumer on the care that he must take in purchasing or consuming any particular food product on the street.

Sexually transmitted diseases have also evaded the control of SAS [Health and Social Welfare] officials because, with respect to syphilis and gonorrhea, there were 9,115 and 23,843 cases, respectively, in 1988, and during the first 7 months of this year 8,412 cases of syphilis and 19,841 of gonorrhea appeared. This indicates that the figures have doubled for reasons as simple as they are disturbing: a lack of personnel, and insufficient vehicles and equipment with which to work.

The yellow fever program has also evinced similar maladjustments, and its activity has declined 75 percent, which could cause another outbreak of the disease. There has also been an increase in malaria cases: During the last week records were taken (31-07-89 to 04-08-89) 886 cases were reported, showing a 100 percent increase, with an epidemiological index of 301. This situation may have been prompted by the same budget problem.

Similar reductions have occurred in the intestinal parasitosis programs, and those for Chagas disease, rural waterworks, construction control, solid waste, air pollution, pesticides, rodent control, and others, the majority of which prevent diseases and epidemics.

Faced with this prospect, the public health inspectors conclude that there is a serious crisis in inspection services, with activity reduced nearly 50 percent, characterized by a new outbreak of pestilences due to: a lack of inspectors, a shortage of budgetary funds, improper personnel policies, and an erroneous orientation in the health services policy.

## * Ex-ICE President on Importance of GATT

*3348027Ic Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 31 Jul 89 p D7*

[Interview with Sebastian Alegrett, former president of the Foreign Trade Institute, by Wilmer Ferrer; date and place not given; first six paragraphs are introduction.]

[Text] Venezuela's application for membership in the GATT has already demonstrated the effort the country is making to emerge from economic obscurantism and commercial prehistory.

Joining the Agreement does not mean submitting to a treaty which Third World countries endorse in a search for an organization to defend their rights and aspirations in the international trade sector. The GATT is much more than that. "It is a framework for the establishment of the commercial rules on what trade in goods and services among the member countries should be. It should not be viewed as a Third World agreement. It is simply a commercial forum," Sebastian Alegrett says.

If accepted, "Venezuela will be bringing itself up to date in terms of its trade and customs policy," he asserts, although it should be understood that the intention and the policy of the government is to go beyond what is involved in its joining the GATT, wherein a consolidated trade policy is indeed required.

Sebastian Alegrett speaks with exactitude when he announces the GATT as his subject for discussion in conversation, conferences, or academic lectures. The designation GATT represents the first letters of its full name in English—General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

This undertaking, the former president of the Foreign Trade Institute explains, opens up broad possibilities for the exporter, but this involves competing adequately on the international level in terms of quality, technology, price, marketing strategy, financing, and the many other things foreign trade requires.

His position as permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) between 1983 and 1987 allowed him to gain a deep understanding of the opportunities in international trade negotiations the Agreement offers its members. And in this connection, he says that Venezuela's admission into the GATT will depend on its business capacity, and that the government will have to contribute for the purpose of developing this foreign economy which is so much sought after, desired by, and necessary to the country. But it must be borne in mind that the government cannot play the role which corresponds to the private sector as the motivating force in a modern economy.

[EL NACIONAL] What does joining the GATT mean for Venezuela?

[Alegrett] Operating within the legal framework which establishes the rules of the game for international trade and the multilateral agreements accepted by the greater part of the world market.

[EL NACIONAL] Are the country, the state, and its government leaders entirely aware of the role they will have to play when approval of the application for membership becomes a fact?

[Alegrett] It is my opinion that Venezuela has always lived in a fantasy regarding these things, removed from its real potential and the world which surrounds it. Joining the GATT community means emerging somewhat from this economic obscurantism, toward which an effort has been in progress, and from commercial prehistory, because we exist outside the real environment in which the trade and exchange among countries develops.

[EL NACIONAL] And is the team of negotiators the best for achieving this goal?

[Alegrett] I understand that there is a negotiating team headed by a minister. For many years, Venezuela has trained qualified people in international economic relations, and I believe that there is no lack of a team to undertake a proper role in the effort to win acceptance in the GATT. I have also learned that this is expected to happen next year. Venezuela, in turn, is working on two important aspects. On the one hand, there is achieving admission, which involves a whole process of negotiation, in which connection a work plan is being organized. This covers the whole subject of trade policy, which I

believe represents an advance toward regularizing our trade practices such as making them consistent with international usage. This in itself does not entail basic changes, but there do exist protectionist policies on the part of member countries such as the United States, Europe, and the socialist countries.

[EL NACIONAL] Is a profound and drastic change in trade practices required?

[Alegrett] Joining the GATT does not mean a definitive change in all the trade practices where protection is concerned either, but it does mean the adoption of more staightforward tools. And, obviously, this is the moment to take the opportunity to rationalize the economy, to the extent that it suits the country. And this is what an attempt is being made to do with the trade reform, because what is wanted is a direction which will be consistent with this international usage.

[EL NACIONAL] And how would you describe Venezuelan trade as it has been?

[Alegrett] We have suffered from a foreign trade administration policy which was too primitive and capricious, as could be seen throughout our economy in the past, when consistency and permanent goals were lacking. There were things instead which were unstable and varied in time. Now an effort is being made to develop an economic policy which is more consistent with a more modern reality, along with a consistent trade policy.

[EL NACIONAL] But what does the GATT mean in all of this?

[Alegrett] It represents a great step toward opening up for ourselves the possibility of trading with the majority of the nations in the world under conditions which can be standardized, where there are rules to guarantee us certain rights which currently we do not have. And this is very important.

[EL NACIONAL] On the other hand, Venezuela must accept and commit itself to adherence to the guidelines established within the GATT.

[Alegrett] As we need a consensus to join the GATT, this also means that we must satisfy its members with our plans, and in some cases this may involve some bilateral agreements. I think that Venezuela should not be passive at this stage, but rather very active. Nor can there be collateral requirements which really threaten our future potential for development in foreign trade, in industry, or in the technological sector.

[EL NACIONAL] But the new subjects involved in the Uruguay Round must be taken into account, in addition to the fact that the country was not allowed to attend as a participant.

[Alegrett] That is true. There are some very thorny points which do not currently involve the GATT, but are being taken up on the ministerial level in the Uruguay Round, such as copyrights, services, and investments. The new subjects may impose limits on our developmental potential if the protectionist measures of the industrialized nations, such as the United States, achieve regulation of this sort. The GATT will serve as a forum where we can defend ourselves in these instances—not just Venezuela, but also the other developing countries which also feel that they are being affected by the protectionist laws in the developed countries. This is the case with Brazil, which is already being subjected to bilateral pressure to accept the application of these standards within the GATT. I believe that it is necessary to arrive at something much more reasonable, something which in any case will not limit the potential for technological development, and as a result, the future growth of the developing countries.

The collateral outline presented by Minister Miguel Rodriguez to the Council of the GATT regarding participation in the Uruguay Round so as to create an opportunity to express the views and strengthen the position of the developing countries on the issues pertaining to all Alegrett also considers important.

His criticism is that "it is there that the attitude of the European Community, which put obstacles in the path of its realization, has seemed petty and inconsiderate."

[EL NACIONAL] It is argued that if Venezuela's application is accepted, other countries would regard themselves as entitled to be accepted as well.

[Alegrett] That is logical. There are other countries which are joining, and why not? This would have to be resolved favorably.

[EL NACIONAL] The developed countries do not want the position of the developing countries strengthened.

[Alegrett] True. But the subject of the Uruguay Round cannot be viewed as something unrelated to the interests of the majority of the inhabitants of this planet who, in point of fact, live in the developing countries. I do not believe that Venezuela could play a decisive role either, since it is only one country among the almost 100 negotiating there. But without a doubt it will strengthen the position of the developing nations.

[EL NACIONAL] What blocked Venezuela's acceptance into the GATT?

[Alegrett] There are thousands of taboos which have come into play concerning this kind of modernization of the Venezuelan economy, and have prevented us from gaining ground. We have lost too much time. Some years ago, the developing world did not have any hope either of achieving more equitable participation in world trade, a role more consistent with the needs of development. Then the UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development] was established, and Venezuela and the rest of the developing countries thought it could resolve our major trade problems. On the other hand, the country benefited from an oil bonanza which brought in a tremendous flow of foreign exchange thanks

to which we were able to buy whatever we needed and whatever we wanted. Also, North-South relations contributed to diverting attention, and all of this prevented us from seeing the need to join the GATT. More thought was given to our regional integration projects, which we were unable to carry out.

Alegrett says that a moment which might have come sooner has now arrived. This is something which should have been done 4 or 5 years ago, but was not done. The opportunity of the Uruguay Round developed for Venezuela, and it seems the most likely way of winning access to the GATT for any country.

During the current round, the future rules of the game for international trade are being defined, and this is the important thing, so that Venezuela must insist on this line being pursued by the negotiator.

## * Important Gold Reserves Found in Guiana Region

*33480270a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 6 Aug 89 p D12*

[Text] Ciudad Guayana (Special)—About 12 percent of proved world reserves of gold are found in the Guiana region. That is, about 5,000 tons of gold are located in oxidation areas which can be exploited by open-strip mining, while 3,000 additional tons are extractable by underground mining. All of this gold- bearing potential has been evaluated by the Tecmin Company, a subsidiary of the Venezuelan Corporation of Guiana, and has been classified in the following way:

- Roraima conglomerates (1,600-1,800 tons): 30-35 percent gold content
- Pre-Roraima conglomerates (2,000-2,500 tons): 30-35 percent gold content
- Recent alluvial deposits: 20-25 percent gold content
- In quartz veins: 10-20 percent gold content.

Regarding the Roraima region, this extends from the Serrania de Lema to the border of the zone under reclamation and the border with Brazil. In the report prepared by Tecmin, it is stated that the gold includes quartz-bearing comglomerates of the Uairen formation type of the Roraima group. Other, pre- Roraima conglomerates of the Caribbean type are also included. This is one of the most extensive, little known, and little exploited areas of the geological provinces of Guiana. It is estimated that about 60 geologists and 30 geochemists, working over a period from 6 to 98 years, would find and evaluate about 3,175 tons of gold.

### Province of Amazonas

The Tecmin report considers that the Province of Amazonas is the most extensive, inaccessible, and costly for exploration purposes. About 5.4 billion bolivares will be required for some 400 geologists and scientists to evaluate and prove out reserves of ore and gold content during the next decade. This would ensure mining 250 tons of gold per year. It would require the removal of more than 120 million tons per year of overlay, that is, four times the handling capacity of the Ferrominera Orinoco Company.

Work on this scale is justified by the fact that a large quantity of potential gold-bearing ore may be found in belts of green granite rock associated with mining operations for other minerals in the Lower Archezoic Proterozoic layer, such as nickel, chrome, platinum, silver, copper, zinc, wolfram, manganese, tin, etc. The potential of all of these additional resources would be equivalent to twice the value generated by gold ($2.5 billion per year), which would create a large number of jobs and various basic industries, encouraging on a continuing basis new areas of development, especially those located on or near our borders.

### Estimates of Gold Tonnage

The studies have made it possible to conclude that a single vein of gold-bearing quartz 8 km long, 1 meter wide, and 30 meters deep in the oxidation zone of the Roraima region, with an average content of 30 grams per ton of material would amount to 18 tons of gold. Such a gold content would frequently be found, since in the Callao area the following rates of production per year have been recorded: in La Laguna, 17 grams per ton, or 22 tons of gold; in El Callao, 63 grams per ton, or 44 tons of gold; in La Union, 10.8 grams per ton, or 13 tons of gold.

Now, in order to develop and exploit this gold-bearing potential Venezuela will require about 400 geologists and scientists, not including those needed to exploit the nickel, chrome, platinum, manganese, tin, diamonds, and radioactive ores. However, to be able to develop these substantial human resources, we would have to change an economy and an educational system traditionally oriented toward the petroleum industry.

Our potential, with petroleum in the North and hydroelectric and mineral resources South of the great Orinoco River, are more favorable than in the case of Brazil, in building a self sufficient and developed country with a diversified economy over the medium and long term. This is stated in the report presented by Vicente Mendoza, the president of Tecmin, to the Sixth Venezuelan Geological Congress.

The only things lacking are the technology, which we do not have, and respect for the ecological balance of so fragile an area as that of La Gran Sabana [the Great Prairie] and the Territory of Amazonas. These zones are very attractive to environmental predators and professional land developers with great influence over any government.

## * Breakthrough in Maritime Dispute Seems Possible

*33480270b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Aug 89 p D5*

[Article by Txomin Las Heras: "Within 1 Year Colombian-Venezuelan Dispute Will Be Settled"]

[Text] Before Colombian President Virgilio Barco concludes his term of office on 7 August 1990, the dispute over maritime and submarine boundaries between Colombia and Venezuela will be resolved. This was stated to AFP [Agence France Presse] in Cartagena by Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris.

Surprisingly, Minister Tejera—who, according to AFP, had been very sparing in his statements on the matter—declared that the dispute would be resolved, "Not only before the end of the administration of President Perez but before the end of that of President Barco."

For their part, here in Caracas high Venezuelan officials confirmed that the delimitation of the maritime and submarine boundaries between Colombia and Venezuela "will be accomplished through direct negotiations between the two sides." They stated that this was agreed after they returned from the meeting which they held in San Cristobal with their Colombian counterparts.

Rafael Pizani and Isidro Morales Paul pointed out that there is complete agreement on that point between the delegations of both countries and that they are "moving forward" in an atmosphere of "cordiality and sincerity" regarding this disputed area in Colombian-Venezuelan relations.

The high commissioners appointed following the meeting between Presidents Virgilio Barco and Carlos Andres Perez in the frontier town of Urena are charged with preparing a list of pending issues between the two countries and finding solutions for them. However, in no case will they undertake negotiations to reach definitive agreements regarding these problems.

The Colombian representatives are Carlos Holguin Holguin and Pedro Gomez Barrero, the former ambassador to Venezuela. The next meeting between the two delegations will take place in Cucuta on 30 and 31 August. It has been agreed that at this time they will meet jointly with the border committees to coordinate common points of interest.

### Preliminary Drafts

At the meeting in San Cristobal the Venezuelan delegates presented a preliminary draft which summarized the position of our country regarding the method to be followed in beginning formal negotiations between Colombia and Venezuela. They turned over their comments on the preliminary Colombian draft which they received at a previous meeting.

The preliminary drafts which the two countries have exchanged contain the characteristics, modalities, and stages of the eventual discussions on the delimitation of maritime and submarine boundaries.

In spite of the general optimism which has been displayed regarding the progress made on this and other matters which the high commissioners are handling, Isidro Morales Paul displayed a certain caution in stating that "good cooking is done on a low burner and not in a microwave oven." He furthermore declared that in cases like the present one, you cannot give "an early warning" about the outcome.

In recent statements made in Bogota Pedro Gomez Barrero, the Colombian negotiator, stated that the resolution of the Colombian-Venezuelan dispute could be accomplished within no more than 1 year.

### Consultations

Both Morales Paul, as well as Pizani, have held information and consultation meetings on this and other topics with former Presidents Rafael Caldera, Luis Herrera Campins, and Jaime Lusinchi, as well as with the leaders of all of the political parties, the Committees on External Relations of Congress, and personalities associated with matters touching on our foreign policy, such as Jose Vicente Rangel, Pedro Jose Lara Pena, and Eduardo Hernandez.

By order of President Carlos Andres Perez the armed forces are also being consulted through a liaison group made up of nine officers, including the chiefs of staff of the four armed forces and the directors of the military academies, with whom periodic meetings are held.

Similar contacts are also being arranged with the leaders of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], the universities, and the Catholic Church.

Venezuela has presented five other preliminary drafts of agreements for the consideration of Colombia regarding the density of land border markers, the return of transportation vehicles illegally seized and utilized for criminal purposes, bringing up-to-date agreements on the narcotics traffic in the light of the United Nations Convention, and the establishment of a Coordination Committee which will be charged with implementing and following up on all of the committees established under the different agreements.

## * Statistics Show Increase in Voter Abstention

*33480259d Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 29 Jul 89 p 4*

[Article by C.S.]

[Text] The most recent Mercanalisis survey shows that the group of voters who may abstain is up from 20 to 33 percent. Women and members of the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] are heavily represented in this group. The trend is less pronounced among the young people.

One-third of the voters think that they will certainly abstain from voting in the next administrative elections, according to a poll which Mercanalisis, a Venezuelan research firm, took between 15 June and 1 July in 11 capital cities in the country.

The study in question, which involved 1,000 voters, showed a 20 to 33 percent increase between the figures for March and June of this year in the individuals who answered that they definitely will not vote in December.

Also, the number of those who said they certainly will vote dropped from 50 percent in March of this year to 44 percent in June.

As is known, the national Constitution provides that voting is a right and a public duty. Until last September, when the abstention level reached 18 percent, according to the official CSE [Supreme Electoral Council] figure, this phenomenon was of no great concern to the political leaders of the country. Abstention in the municipal elections, which was 28 percent in 1979 and 42 percent in 1984, could continue to rise, to judge from the figures revealed by the poll.

The highest percentage of those inclined to abstain was seen in Caracas (41 percent) and the lowest in the capitals of the states in the Andes (27) and the eastern part of the country (29).

According to the polls, women showed a greater tendency to abstain than men (40 percent as compared to 26 percent).

Young people (18 to 24) accounted for the largest percentage of those who said they certainly will vote. In other words, they are less inclined toward abstention.

Of all the political parties, it was the members of the MAS who showed the greatest inclination to abstain (36 percent), as compared to 26 percent for members of the COPEI [Social Christian Party] and 23 percent for AD [Democratic Action] supporters.

**Evaluation of the Government**

This same survey called for an evaluation of the government by those interviewed.

Of those questioned, 2 percent said "excellent," 17 percent said "good," 48 said "average," 17 said "bad," 12 said "very bad," and 3 said they did not know.

The breakdown of the 48 percent who described the government as "average" was as follows: 33 said "average-good" and 14 said "average-bad."

The views of those interviewed after this government had been active for 5 months were more critical than the answers in the survey which asked about the first year of the preceding government. At that time, 38 percent of those interviewed said "excellent" or "good," and only 13 percent said "bad" or "very bad."

This all seems to reflect the impact of the drastic economic steps taken by the administration of President Perez at the beginning of his term of office.

The most positive assessment was found in Caracas, where 22 percent said "excellent" or "good." The most negative opinions were found in Valencia, where 35 percent said "bad" or "very bad."

## * Social Security Doctors To Resume Duties

*33480260b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 18 Jul 89 p C2*

[Article by Hugo Colmenares]

[Text] Under protest, Social Security physicians have resumed their duties at hospitals and outpatient clinics in accordance with the law and the ruling handed down by the board of arbitration named by presidential order.

This announcement was made by Dr Ruben Hernandez, vice president-elect of the Medical Federation, who noted that the National Government has thereby put pressure on physicians to abandon their legitimate struggle, thus wiping out a year of discussions and waiving the right to negotiate contracts and strike, as provided by the constitution.

"We are obeying the law and the provisions of the ruling. We shall immediately submit an appeal to the Supreme Court, asking it to nullify Decree 325 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez, who named an arbitration commission which handed down the ruling against the doctors, inasmuch as it diminishes gains made in the new collective contract. For example, it reduces the salary increase from 45 to 35 percent and allows partial payments."

Legal adviser Enrique Aguero Gorrin and Dr Ruben Hernandez recall that traditionally and for the past 40 years, the Medical Federation representing the doctors has signed the contract with the Institute and that differences or gains were debated until dialogue was exhausted, but without pressure. They are surprised that the Executive Branch, through the Ministry of Labor and the Institute, should fail to recognize the signed contract and do not accept it even though it was signed by joint agreement. What is even more surprising is that the instrument thus rejected is the very one used by the arbitration board for modification at the expense of the physicians and that a ruling was handed down forcing them to go back to work.

"We are thus deprived of the right to have a contract and strike," Hernandez said.

The doctors are divided, first of all by the conflict that led them to such an extreme. The government has exerted pressure through the ruling. Doctors belonging to Democratic Action (AD) are split into two groups: 1) those taking the semi-official position based on orders from the National Executive Committee and the Secretariat of Professional and Technical Workers and which,

through notices in the press, has ordered its members back to work while solutions are being sought; and 2) rank-and-file AD doctors obeying the National Committee on Disputes, which ordered them to continue their demands.

Federation President Francisco Martinez straddles the fence between orders from the party and support for his colleagues in conflict. Participants in Friday's march before the Court shouted slogans against him and demanded his resignation. Twice yesterday we asked for a statement from him, but the lack of news caused him to refuse.

Whether or not to go back to work is to be debated at the general assembly of doctors scheduled for today at the Federation's auditorium. However, the Committee on Disputes wanted to suspend radical actions and wage an intense war on the legal level. It will take days, weeks, or months to obtain a ruling, despite the fact that Chief Justice Otto Marin Gomez offered to label any such applications submitted urgent. Some, however, wanted to use more direct means to find solutions favoring both sides.

Federation legal adviser Enrique Aguero Gorrin already had a draft demand and was only awaiting a decision by the doctors following consultations with an administrative affairs expert on how to proceed before the Court.

Mauricio Rivas Campos questioned the attitude of members of Parliament and CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] leaders Cesar Gil and Antonio Rios, who called the doctors back to work "when the truth is that they are not even familiar with our struggle and are official spokesmen."

"We can personally say that our concern for the country's health goes beyond the collective contract and that we are concerned about the patients. We have ordered the closing of four clinics that have contracts with the IVSS [Venezuelan Institute of Social Security] for psychiatric and geriatric care, because those centers have turned into worse prisons than the Nazi torture chambers."

Rivas Campos claims that one of the women's clinics in La Florida is shameful and painful to see. "CTV officials do not know this."

"Corruption in the IVSS is widespread with respect to contracts for services and the purchase of medicine and equipment. There are irregularities and the problem goes far back. For 20 years newspapers have been reporting the same thing. When there are disputes, the government and Institute accuse doctors of scheming and claim to be overhauling administrative procedures and paying good salaries. The Institute's strings are being pulled from the outside. This corruption and these privileges with suppliers, contractors, laboratories, shyster politicians, and others have to come to an end. President Perez ordered the formation of a commission to reorganize the Institute. I am personally not acquainted with its reports or recommendations. As far as the closing of clinics having contracts with the Institute is concerned, very few are kept and I have the human support of Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] representatives."

The physicians intend to refer AD doctors who have signed documents published in the press calling upon others to go back to work to the board of discipline.

## Guyana

### Sugar Workers Union Decides To Extend Strike

*FL1909232089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2059 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 19, CANA—Guyana's eight sugar estates remained crippled as a result of a strike for the second successive day on Tuesday and will remain so at least until Friday, a union leader said.

General secretary of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union (GAWU) Komal Chand said the majority of the country's 20,000 sugar workers struck to back demands that the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) speed up wages talks with GAWU. Chand told CANA his union had planned a full resumption for Wednesday but has had to adjust its plans "because Guysuco is now reneging on its decision to meet with us tomorrow (Wednesday)". He accused the state-owned company of applying "foot-dragging tactics for wearing down the union" with the hope that by offering workers incentives, they will stay on the job for the remaining 12 weeks of the current crop. He said Guysuco cancelled Wednesday's planned talks in spite of assurances given its industrial relations manager, D.P. Sankar, that there would have been a full resumption of work Wednesday.

"They are insisting that when the workers go back to work...They will review the situation and then fix a new date (for the continuation of the wages talks)", Chand told CANA.

Guysuco's communications manager, Hugh Vandeyar, confirmed that the corporation has cancelled Wednesday's meeting. Vandeyar told CANA the corporation considers the current strike action "senseless and damaging to the interests of the workers" because the union was told since last week that it would not be possible for the next round of talks to be held before Wednesday. He said the corporation has not been informed officially by the union about the current strike and at last week's talks, the union had not threatened to go on strike if the next round was not held on Monday as it had requested.

The corporation said in a statement on Tuesday that the current strike was being staged in violation of the existing collective bargaining agreement between the union and Guysuco and it viewed this development with "grave concern".

Guysuco added: "Taking all the circumstances into consideration, the corporation will only schedule further

meetings with GAWU when it is satisfied that there is a full resumption of work on the estates and sugar production is continuing."

Komal Chand said the strike in the industry will continue until Friday and that workers will be advised to return to work from Saturday—"unless some other matter develops to prolong the strike even further."

## Suriname

### Amazon Indians Reject Shankar's Demands

*FL1909220389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Sep 89*

[Text] The rebellious Tucayana Amazon Indians have in a message to President Ramsewak Shankar stated that they reject his demand. The president has asked the rebels to return the goods they have taken by force and to release the kidnapped pilot to show their good will.

Rebel leader Thomas [name as heard], however, pointed out in a letter to the president the terroristic actions by the Brunswijk gang in the past year. These are being rewarded with the Kourou Accord and amnesty said the leader of the rebels. The rebels say that the demands by the president will be rejected as long as members of the Brunswijk gang are not brought to justice. Thomas has in his letter again emphasized that he wants to talk with Assembly Chairman Lachmon and Army Commander Bouterse.

In reaction to this letter, the cabinet of the president stated that the government wants to hold discussions. The Tucayana Amazon Indians have, however, not yet fixed a date for the discussions, said the cabinet of the president.